

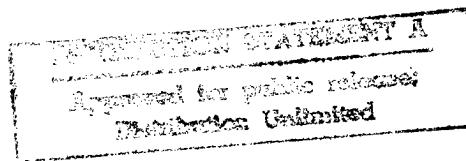
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Latin America Report



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22 May 1984

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BRIEFS

SURINAMERS VISIT BRAZILIAN CONCERNS--As mentioned earlier, a number of SML [Institute for Mechanical Agriculture] members visited Brazil from 16 February through 2 March at their own expense; they were accompanied by a few owners of factories for rice products, two bank presidents, and also the mayor of the Nickerie District M. Soe A Ngie, who is also a member of the executive council of the SML. The SML weekly bulletin reported that the following places were visited: medium sized and large agricultural enterprises, including Brazil's biggest irrigated rice project, cattle farms, meat plants, several research centers, fish hatcheries (carp and tilapia), agricultural machinery factories, and the bank for agriculture in Goiania. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch Mar 84 p 1] 10139

CSO: 3214/30

RADICAL YOUTH SEEN INTENT ON CREATING POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 23 Mar 84 pp 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

[Article by Tabare Areas]

[Text] Alfonsin's JP [Peronist Youth]?

Just as Peron's JP did 10 years ago, the most combative intellectuals in Radical Youth (JR), with the Coordinating Board in the lead, are fighting to impose their political program on Alfonsin's administration. What and who is behind the ideological debate that is taking place in Alfonsin's Radical government under the banner of a grassroots mobilization.

As Alfonsin completed his first 100 days in power, he realized not only that he has to confront the dangers of attrition that the exercise of power entails but also that there is a silent struggle under way within his own party among the various factions seeking maneuvering room. The struggle is most evident among young Radicals, who are debating which faction really exemplifies Raul's philosophy and among whom we can see the gains made by the National Coordinating Board, the most combative group in the Alfonsin faction.

Just as under Peronism 10 years ago, though there are some differences as well, the Argentine president is being "pushed" by the youth groups that want to impart their own pace and ideology to the government. In the wake of developments in recent weeks, it is not naive to wonder whether given its grassroots mobilization program, the JR is not in the midst of a "Peronization" process. At present, the source of the feud seems inexhaustible.

The Coordinating Board. The Radical youth movement has not closed ranks around a single leadership, and the internal battle that the various youth factions are presently waging is the main overt feud among Alfonsin supporters. One hundred days into the administration, there are almost a half-dozen major factions operating behind the scenes in the JR, but the most important is the National Coordinating Board. The following is a quick rundown of the factions.

The Coordinating Board. It is headed, among others, by Marcelo Stubrin, Leopoldo Moreau, Federico Storani and Eduardo "Changui" Caceres. Last February they held a national plenary meeting in Mar del Plata at which they set themselves up as an "organization of cadres from all over the republic." The group is organized into task forces (neighborhood, labor, student, women), has a solid structure in the federal capital, some zones of Greater Buenos Aires and Santa Fe and has very good relations with German Lopez and the team behind Antonio Mucci in the Labor Ministry. This group's members are said to be virtually in control of the Social Action Ministry, which could well be true inasmuch as one of its most prominent leaders, Enrique "Coti" Nosiglia, is the social action secretary. According to rumors that have never been denied, at least 50 active members of the Coordinating Board (all of them recent university graduates in professional fields) are about to complete an information management, planning and psychological action course at a branch of the French intelligence service. "The students of the French experts," Jesus Iglesias Rouco wrote in LA PRENSA, "will reportedly join SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] around mid-year, probably replacing the 90 military officers who were discharged some weeks ago from the agency on 25 de Mayo Street."

All of these reports, plus the stories that began going around after journalist Hugo Gambini resigned from the official news agency TELAM, point to a Coordinating Board plan (Radical sources acknowledge as much) to occupy certain key posts in the "information community." The plan would take final shape after Antonio Troccoli, one of the last major figures from the Balbin faction, is relieved as interior minister by the Coordinating Board's natural candidate: the current ambassador-at-large Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen.

In any case, there are some indications that relations between the Coordinating Board's groups and Alfonsin are not as good as their leaders claim. Early this year, the president turned down a proposal made by Federico Storani on behalf of the Coordinating Board that Alfonsin resign as party president, in accordance with the letter of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] charter. As time has gone by the Coordinating Board has come to regard itself as the backbone of the historic third movement and as such seeks to place its men in charge of the Mobilization Commission that will be set up soon in the UCR to aid the National Committee.

If the rally set for Friday the 23rd goes as its organizers have planned (a turnout of at least 70,000), the Coordinating Board could well intensify its political pressure on the government in a bid to make the administration's rosters more uniform and thus "fulfill the mandate of 30 October."

To the group's leaders (whom Iglesias Rouco put on the hot seat by reporting that SIDE would put them in charge of "keeping an eye on democracy on every block in the capital and Greater Buenos Aires"), fulfilling the mandate of 30 October seems to primarily mean getting

rid of top labor leaders and continuing the administration offensive so that Peronism is unable to make a comeback. In keeping with this approach, the Coordinating Board's main vehicle for political pressure is street rallies by Alfonsin supporters, while it will serve as the hub for the mass demonstrations that the administration will be staging in the future.

National Convergence. This is the second most important group in the federal capital and is the direct heir of Revolutionary Radical Youth, which faced off with the Coordinating Board since it was founded. Its main leaders are Guillermo Tello Rosas (national deputy), Dr Luis Rodriguez Fontan and Mariano Blanco. Its aim is to be "the tool that Alfonsin needs to forge national unity." It has some men in government: Guillermo Juan, Alberto Estrifeso, Enrique Di Benedetti (councilmen), Rodriguez Fontan (undersecretary of public works and services) and Beranndo Acosta (on the IMOS Board of Directors), among others.

When asked to explain the difference between it and the Coordinating Board, the group's leader, Tello Rosas, tends to say: "First, we are not reactionaries; second, our development went from political activism towards the social front, including the university, whereas the Coordinating Board was born in the university and moved towards the party. We are not against anything, we are for everything, inside and outside the party."

Convergence seeks to challenge the Coordinating Board for top spot during this stage of the internal UCR feuding and, in general, instead of talking about a historic third movement, prefers to say that Alfonsin is the third leader of the masses that the national movement has had so far this century. According to its spokesmen, Convergence controls 20 of the 28 sectional committees in the capital; the members of the Coordinating Board dispute this, of course, asserting that they have 60 of the 84 delegates on those committees.

JR Renovation and Change. This Radical activist group has opposed the Coordinating Board within the Renovation and Change Movement since the days when Alfonsin was at odds with Ricardo Balbin. Its main leaders are Gonzalez Pastor and Ameztoy, who have power in a number of federal capital districts and who call themselves "the veterans" [los historicos]. They also seek to develop the Alfonsin bloc as a new phenomenon in Argentine society and to turn it into a political movement in and of itself. The group has a labor and a neighborhood front, but its rallying power has not grown all that much in recent times.

National and Popular Current. This is another descendant of Revolutionary Radical Youth. In the federal capital it joined with Ruben Rabanal's Popular Intransigence and got a foothold in some university departments under the wing of Franja Morada. Its main leaders are Miguel Ponce, Jose Petruzo, Roberto Hermida and Samuel Herrmann. Its political aims are much closer to National Line's than to those of the Alfonsin

wing. Its members stress that they are not reactionaries; their standard-bearers are Moises Lebehnson and Crisologo Larralde. According to some leaders, this faction is prepared to wage an ideological battle against the "excesses of the Coordinating Board," a catch phrase that the leaders of many factions of the ruling party make use of. This faction is reportedly the main force behind an anti-Coordinating Board front that comprises the factions of the JR that do not agree with the policies of the combative deputies' group.

Loyalty and Struggle. This is the youth faction of the former National Line. It is criticized in the party for being somewhat opportunistic because while waving the Alfonsin banner, it attracts members with the political positions of the Balbin faction. Rafael Pascual is its main leader, and it hopes to demonstrate its rallying power at the march on the 23rd. Antonio Troccoli's son belongs to Loyalty and Struggle, and some Radical circles claim that the interior minister and the speaker of the House of Deputies, Juan Carlos Pugliese, are its ideological mentors.

JP and JR. Although those involved in the internal Radical squabbling today might like to downplay its importance, the fact is that the longstanding confrontation between the Alfonsin and Balbin factions has been completely overshadowed by the feud going on in Renovation and Change. Alfonsin seeks to put together a third historic movement and realizes that the main engine of such a movement is youth. However, it is precisely on the youth front that the internal struggle is the most intense, even though all of the factions claim to be the "legitimate representatives of Raul's philosophy."

The Coordinating Board presently has a wide lead and, whether its members like it or not, it has resorted to a traditional Peronist weapon: rallies. For 15 days prior to Friday the 23rd, the struggle to dominate the march to Mayo Square was mirrored on walls all over Buenos Aires. Though the country is different and the collective mood is different too, the fact is that this infighting recalled the confrontations between the various factions of Peronist Youth in the 1970's, when they battled wall to wall and street to street in an almost fanatic attempt to show who dominated the business of mobilizing the masses to defend the people's government. Many of the basic elements of the Peronist folklore (the placards, the fanfare, the combative, anti-imperialist language) are today part of the Radical rallies, which no longer settle for the overwhelming presence of the Argentine middle class. Today too, members of trade unions and university federations carry placards and march in support of the president.

Some elements of the administration's structure also recall the tenacity with which the JP's revolutionary faction tried to control key posts in government, fighting hand to hand with the most conservative or complacent circles. There are, of course, huge, decisive differences between the government that was the scene of the JP's infighting and the one in which the JR's squabbling is going on. One big difference

is that the violence of those days does not exist today; there is no talk of "special formations," and subversion is no longer in the streets or in offices.

Someone in Congress coined a phrase that still causes arguments: "The people on the Coordinating Board are Alfonsin's Montoneros. If he doesn't put a stop to them today, they'll split off on their own, with a separate political program." Jesus Rodriguez, who has a master's degree in economics and, at 28, is the youngest UCR national legislator, told this writer that that statement was untrue, saying: "The Montoneros were born 30 years after Peronism; in contrast, the Coordinating Board grew with Alfonsin. At the recent elections the JR demonstrated that it was the antithesis of the Montoneros, inasmuch as the basic rallying cry was 'We are life,' whereas the Peronist faction chanted 'Peron or death.' They had a militaristic system, and we are dyed-in-the-wool civilians. Moreover, there are differences in means and ends..."

On 30 October, in an election almost without precedent in the country, Alfonsin filled a glaring leadership vacuum on the domestic political scene, garnering votes left, right and center. Now that his administration is in place, it does not seem overbold to state (though with the margin for error that is always entailed in classifying political movements in airtight categories) that the Coordinating Board is the left wing of the Alfonsin bloc and that its members would like to set in motion without delay the plan for the third historic movement. The idea has been gaining strength, although the ideological debate on what Alfonsinism should finally become in the next few years has not yet been cleared up in Renovation and Change. Deputy Adolfo Stubrin was heard to say the following at a gathering of party members: "We are still in the stage of putting together our ideology. For the time being we are following Alfonsin's approach of describing the country's problems and finding practical solutions for them. But we are also following Yrigoyen's idea that what we have is not just a party but fundamentally a movement, a movement that seeks to command a majority but that has no intention of going beyond democracy."

Another issue under discussion in government offices seems to be how to come up with practical, efficient solutions for specific problems without taking liberties with democracy. A rumor was going around in recent weeks to the effect that the members of the Coordinating Board that are on the Deliberating Council had submitted a plan under which Franja Morada and JR squads would control prices at fairs and markets in the capital and Greater Buenos Aires. The Radical bloc on the council comprises 38 members, 10 of whom are under age 35 and 6 of whom belong to the JR. The chairman of the council is a well-known member of the Coordinating Board: Leopoldo Suarez Jr, who was heard to say this about the price control brigades: "This is nonsense, because the Commerce Secretariat, not the council is in charge of controlling prices." As far as we know, the Supply Commission has submitted a bill to the council under which the prices of items in the family shopping basket would be cut at municipal markets, "which would

bring reductions in the rest of the stores," it was heard remarked in the old building on Hipolito Yrigoyen Street. The youth faction also pushed for the changes in the school regulations under which students will now elect their standard-bearer by secret ballot. A Peronist councilman, who preferred to remain anonymous so as not to roil the waters, told this writer confidentially as we were going down the stairs in the building that "The JR people are the most impulsive at the sessions, and at times the veterans from their own party have to calm them down. They are very studious, and the bills they submit are carefully drawn up, but they could break with Alfonsin at any time. The people on the Coordinating Board at times seem to want to ride roughshod over their own fellow party members."

When the issue was being talked about on every street corner, a feature writer interviewed Juan Radonjic, the JR secretary in the province of Buenos Aires, a member of the Coordinating Board and the secretary of the House Industry Committee.

[Question] Will Radical Youth start controlling prices?

[Answer] No, nothing of the sort. Party activity is one thing, and the work of government is another. Therefore, it is not up to the party's youths to take actions that are properly the administration's.

[Question] Are you saying then that they won't start controlling prices?

[Answer] The issue was neither brought up nor discussed. We will do everything possible to help the party, but there will always be a clear-cut distinction between party and ideological activity on the one hand and the specific work of government on the other. The latter is not our responsibility.

[Question] Is there a dialogue today between Peronist Youth and Radical Youth?

[Answer] It would be hard to start one now because we can't find anyone to talk to in Peronist Youth. I would say that Radical Youth in the province is backing the council that Herminio Iglesias chairs, and it's impossible to talk with them.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] We feel that they have taken a savage and irresponsible opposition stand, operating in groups that unfortunately are egging each other on to see who is more strongly opposed to the government.

From Franja to the Front. During the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the trade union bill, a keen observer said that the young Radical lawmakers acted as if they were attending a university assembly rather

than a session of Congress. There were solid grounds for this observation, which leads straight to a question that is somewhat difficult to answer: How much weight does Franja Morada really have today in the administration and how is it connected with Radical Youth?

The coup that toppled Arturo Illia and brought Gen Juan Carlos Onganía to power took place on 28 June 1966. The young Radicals, most of them from families that also belonged to the party, began to analyze the reasons for the coup. One of their questions always went unanswered: How could the government have fallen without anyone reacting, without any kind of support. There then arose the theory that without a grass-roots mobilization, no government could stand up to the "destroyers of democracy." During the first year of Onganía's administration the Franja Morada Reformist National Union was established in defiance of the law, opening up another battleground between Radicals and non-Radicals (the communist Left). The UCR group was headed by Federico Storani (today a national deputy) and Luis Menucci in La Plata, Ernesto Aracena in Córdoba and Carlos Muino (today president of the Radical deputies' bloc in Tucumán) and Rubén Chebaia (currently intendant of Tucumán), among others. The confrontation led eventually to a rift, with the Radicals in the majority in Tucumán and Córdoba and the forces evenly divided in La Plata and Rosario.

The Authentic Reformist University Movement (MURA) arose concurrently. When elections were held in student centers in 1966 (clandestinely), MURA was victorious. Luis Cáceres and Marcelo Stubrin, who are national deputies today, were its point men, and Ricardo Laferrière and Bernardo Salduré, who are also deputies today, also belonged. The Authentic Movement for University Reform (MARU) was born around the same time in Buenos Aires; its leader was Leopoldo Moreau, who today is a top-ranking chief on the Coordinating Board and a national deputy. Thus, almost two decades later, the leaders of the student vanguard have gotten together in the halls of Congress to constitute the hardest-line faction of Alfonsinism.

The National Coordinating Board was born at a country house by Setubal Lagoon near the city of Santa Fe one evening in 1967. Its first three leaders were Luis Cáceres, Marcelo Stubrin and Ricardo Laferrière, who started on the long road that has today made their group the hottest issue in the country. The group's record was often contradictory, even to gain the backing of Ricardo Balbin, who was then the party's number one man. Another gathering was held in the same house by Setubal Lagoon in 1968, and from it emerged another leadership, Cáceres, Moreau and Miguel Molinero this time. Another congress was held in Villa del Dique (Córdoba) in 1970, at which a major ideological dispute arose. Some members took an openly revolutionary stand in calling for the overthrow of the military government, whereas others proposed a call for free elections without the need for an interim government. The latter view eventually won out. One of the Coordinating Board's best known promoters was Sergio Karakachof (from La Plata), who was later murdered.

To many who are familiar with the Radical Party's history, there was one development that assured close ties between the Coordinating Board and Raul Alfonsin: the appointment of Arturo Mor Roig as interior minister under Alejandro Agustin Lanusse. "Balbin, Troccoli and Garcia Puente let him do it, but Alfonsin asked to have his membership card canceled," a source has commented, "and since then we have been around him. It was then that Raul, aided by Conrado Storani, began the renovation movement, and since then we have been marching together."

Renovation and Change was born in 1972 and ran against the Balbin-Gamomond ticket in the Radical nomination process prior to the big election in 1973. Since that time, Franja Morada has taken up most of Alfonsin's banners, laying the groundwork for the process now under way.

Perhaps as a result of the middle class's shift to Alfonsin, Franja Morada has today become a political power that goes beyond the university campus to the very core of power, through Radical Youth. It currently controls all of the regional university federations and in Buenos Aires, in addition to heading the Buenos Aires University Federation (FUBA), it controls the student centers in medicine, economics, engineering, architecture, exact sciences, philosophy and letters and law. The only departments that it does not control are pharmacy and biochemistry, sociology, psychology, dentistry and agronomy.

In spite of its apparently monolithic front, Franja has two factions: one is Renovation and Change-National Coordinating Board, led by Andres Delich, the son of the current rector of Buenos Aires University, and the other is the National and Popular Current, which is led by Samuel Herrmann and follows the lead nationally of Deputy Ruben Rabanal. The latter faction is clearly in the minority, the difference between the two being that National and Popular Current contends that Renovation and Change does not unfurl the banners of anti-imperialism, nationalism and working class interests. Their attacks are aimed at Minister Grinspan and assert that the Coordinating Board people are not criticizing what ought to be criticized in the government.

In any event, Franja Morada has key men in solid positions of power both inside and outside the university. First of all there is Andres Delich, the president of the FUBA and son of the rector, as we mentioned before. Rey Leyes is another of Franja's ideologues; he heads the Engineering Department center, while Lucio Schwarber runs CONTENIDO, the group's newspaper. Holding seats in Congress are Marcelo and Adolfo Stubrin, Leopoldo Moreau and Jesus Rodriguez, true ideologues of Franja and Radical Youth. The chairman of the Deliberating Council, Leopoldo Suarez Jr, belongs to the group, as does Councilman Roberto Vazquez. Those who are familiar with the inner workings of the universities have the impression that the main student leaders are strongly opposed to filling the executive posts in the Argentine University Federation (FUA), which has not yet been able to put together a national organization. The fact is that Franja Morada is on the horns of a dilemma in the university councils: either it can continue to support the authorities in

line with the ruling party's hardline stance or become part of the domestic opposition over the question of open admissions.

Above and beyond similarities or differences in methods and in the political use of the term "mobilize," the fact is that Raul Alfonsin will be the one who will set an ideological ceiling for the program that the JR, encouraged primarily by the Coordinating Board, is currently pushing. When he does so, perhaps then we will know exactly to what extent and how quickly Alfonsin is prepared to move to lift the veil of uncertainty and mystery shrouding his plan to build the much-talked-about third historic movement in the street and in government.

Who's Who in Radical Youth

Internal strife along traditional lines is apparently a thing of the past in Radical Youth and in the party as a whole. The Alfonsin phenomenon (some call it the syndrome) swept everything away and established a common ground: his leadership is unquestioned. Renovation and Change is the only possible scene of action today. The disagreements revolve around the political program to be pursued and the method of implementing it. In this regard, for example, the debate is over what stand to take towards Peronism, and although Radical Youth does not have an organization in all districts at present, the debate rages throughout the country, albeit most intensely in the federal capital.

Radical Youth has held internal elections in just five districts so far: Entre Rios, Mendoza, Tucuman, Cordoba and the capital. The mandates of the authorities elected in 1973 in the province of Buenos Aires were extended. The new election will be held in mid-1984.

The Coordinating Board wants an urgent reorganization of the remaining electoral districts so that the National Committee of Radical Youth can be set up before the end of the year (August or September). National Convergence wants this too but gives itself more time: it talks about 1985, after the election of authorities in the capital, scheduled for June.

Factionalism within Radical Youth in the provinces consists solely of vestiges from a period that is regarded as over: National Line versus Renovation and Change. In some provinces, such as La Pampa and Chaco, the MAY [Yrigoyen Affirmation Movement] has some say. But there is general agreement that the Alfonsin backers are in the majority in all of them.

The picture is more complicated in the federal capital, because there are at least 10 factions, although the thinking is that many of them are going to merge and others are mere token groups. The most noteworthy rivalry at present is between the Coordinating Board and National Convergence, with the latter growing rapidly and having a stronger base at the neighborhood level.

There are 28 local branches of Radical Youth in the federal capital, and each branch has 3 delegates (2 from the majority and 1 from the minority, as long as it gets $\frac{1}{4}$ of the vote). This makes a total of 84 delegates.

The breakdown of the 84 delegates was as follows as of July 1983, the date of the most recent Radical Youth elections in the federal capital:

- 38 Coordinating Board
- 11 Renovation and Change Radical Youth (JRRC-Historic Alfonsinism)
- 10 Popular Intransigence (IP-Rabanal Line)
- 7 Nucleus and Unity (N and C, a currently nonexistent Alvear group)
- 6 National Convergence (the former Radical Action Movement, a Balbin faction that dissolved and reappeared in coalition with other groups)
- 3 National and Popular Current (CNP)
- 2 National Line (later known as Loyalty and Struggle; used to follow De la Rua and no longer exists as a representative group)
- 2 Independent Movement (MI-Trilla line)
- 1 Youth of the Yrigoyen Affirmation Movement (MAY-Luis Leon)
- 4 Do not belong to any faction

The makeup of Radical Youth's Capital Committee looks like this:

Chairman	Jesus Rodriguez (Coordinating Board)
First Vice Chairman	Hector Costanzo
Second Vice Chairman	Martin Oures (Popular Intransigence)
Mobilization Secretary	Juan Jose Acosta (Convergence)
Political Action Secretary	Jose Iraizu (Coordinating Board)
Trade Union Secretary	Luis Ballet (Convergence)
Student Secretary	Enrique Hermidas (Coordinating Board)
Recording Secretary	Pedro Calvo (former National Line)

Among the committee members are people from the Coordinating Board, National Convergence, Independent Movement, MAY Youth and Nucleus and Unity.

It bears mentioning, however, that some shifts in affiliation are in the works. Many delegates who came in representing one faction (National Line, Popular Intransigence or Independent Movement, for example) are no longer representing it. Some are talking with the Coordinating Board and others with Convergence.

8743

CSO: 8148/1238

POLITICAL PARTIES STRONGLY PROTEST NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Several political parties have expressed their opposition to and repudiation of the economic measures implemented the night of Thursday 12 April.

FSB

The Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) states in a communique that the measures have unleashed a period of "increasing anguish and affliction" among the lower classes, and asks that they be repealed.

"The Bolivian people have been cast into the abyss of economic chaos. The government has elected the route of disaster to solve its problems, choosing to accelerate the general disintegration and converting a deep and severe crisis into a social, political and economic confrontation."

The FSB warns that the government will repress the hungry people who are fighting for better living conditions. It claims that the crisis should be confronted with "comprehensive measures that involve the restructuring of state enterprises that are now bankrupt, of unproductive public spending, of the exaggerated bureaucracy and of the tax system and its mechanisms for preventing the scourge of corruption."

It calls for immediate general elections. The communique is signed by Remi Solares, Freddy Cerruto and Gustavo Sejas.

FNP

The Progressive National Force (FNP), in another communique, terms the measures a betrayal of the people, "the most serious and significant attack on the lower-class economy."

"This package is draconian, crushing and destructive. It subjects the people to a situation that was not present even under the most hated of dictatorships." The FNP states that the bonuses announced are not enough to deal with the increase in prices for staple goods. It contends that the measures benefit the privileged sectors, to the detriment of the people. "In view of the

magnitude of the consequences of the package implemented by Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), the people must mobilize to prevent the commission of a crime that words could not describe," states the communique signed by Luis Fernando Mostajo.

Indian Front (FIAT)

The Amautico Indian Front of Tawantinsuyo (FIAT) "rejects the latest economic measures in their entirety, because they can only lead to hunger and at the same time favor only the transnational corporations."

A communique signed by Honorato Sanchez and Victor Machaca calls for the resignation of the government, which it accuses of incompetence. "We cannot be accomplices, much less remain silent, because the Indian people cannot suffer hunger caused by external factors and/or systems foreign to this continent. FIAT was the first to ask any government to impose a moratorium on the foreign debt," states the communique.

Indian Party

The Indian Party (PI) maintains in another communique that these measures will aggravate hunger, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment. "The UDP has once again deceived the people and revealed its complicity with the Yankee imperialists through the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the support of the bourgeoisie Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the pro-IMF Bolivian Communist Party (PCB)," claims the communique, which rejects the measures and the "rightist policy of the UDP."

The PI calls for the formation of a political front revolving around the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), the Confederation of Peasants and the "truly revolutionary" political parties, with a view to leading the country. It also calls for the resignation of the current government.

POR

The Revolutionary Workers Party (POR), in a communique signed by Alberto Saenz, says the economic package will cause hunger, and calls for an indefinite general strike until the vital minimum wage with a sliding scale is restored.

It maintains that "the anti-worker and anti-people nature of the measures can be seen in the fact that prices have been raised by up to 500 percent, while wage compensation (bonuses) barely reaches 100 percent. We Bolivians are now three times poorer than we were before. If the children of the workers were unable to drink milk before, now they cannot even eat bread. These are the consequences of the monstrous deceit practiced by the UDP government in its monetarist measures."

The POR also claims that the bonuses are detrimental to the workers because "they are obliterated by inflation," and they have no effect on categories, pensions or social benefits.

It condemns the COB and states that "it has shown an extreme passivity, bordering on complicity" with regard to the measures. It urges the COB to call an indefinite general strike until the vital minimum wage with a sliding scale is implemented. It also calls for the nationalization of the transportation industry.

8926

CSO: 3348/394

COMIBOL TO STUDY SOVIET INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] The minister of mining and metallurgy, Carlos Carvajal, has announced that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) has an interest in financing the execution of the Machacamarca integrated project, with an investment of \$400 and \$500 million.

He remarked that the joint managing board of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) will analyze the letter of intent signed 20 days ago between representatives of the state mining company and the Soviet firm, on Wednesday.

He said that the offer relates to the execution of the integrated project, which includes the plant per se and the collateral projects to guarantee the concentrates for the plant's operation.

He commented: "This is a significant sum, compared with what COMIBOL needs for its rehabilitation, amounting to \$600 or \$700 million in all."

He added: "The fact that we have received an offer of between \$400 and \$500 million for the integrated project is a proposal that must be studied carefully."

He noted that, "In order to make it materialize, the approval will have to be given by COMIBOL's technicians and, on that basis, a decision will have to come from the company's board of directors."

When asked about the presumed imposition by the Communist cell in COMIBOL, demanding that the proposal be accepted, the minister explained: "Machacamarca is a project that we have inherited as well. It is not a project that has come into being during recent months. The COMIBOL board instructed technicians from the company to submit a complete study of what Machacamarca will represent, and it has received a good response."

He claimed that, based on the study conducted by the company's technicians, at the behest of the board of directors, not only is the project associated with the plant, but its scope is also associated with mining projects for supplying ores from the Bolivar mine, the production from Huanuni and others. "The study has shown that the project will be profitable."

He said that, during a meeting held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the Soviets proposed the building of the plant, and the groundwork was laid for the Soviet government to give an impetus not only to the plant, but also to the supplementary projects.

At the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, it was announced that the project dates back to 1978-79, when the execution of studies including investments smaller than the one proposed by the Soviet Union, "which could not materialize, despite the efforts expended," had begun.

They expressed their pessimism regarding the implementation of the Soviet proposal, to which they attribute "political and economic motives," stemming from the situation that is being experienced not only by the company, but, primarily, by the country.

2909
CSO: 3348/396

SOVIETS INTENSIFY ASSISTANCE TO METALLURGIC SECTOR

La Paz HOY in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The Soviet government has started an intense effort for technical cooperation with industrial projects involving polymetallurgical volatilization and processing in Bolivia.

For this purpose, a first mission has arrived in the country, and it is expected that during the next few weeks three other technical groups specializing in different fields will pay a visit, and will begin working on the sites where the aforementioned projects are located.

Projects

During this first phase, the Russians will cooperate in the implementation of the project to establish the second tin volatilization plant in Machacamarca, in Oruro.

The other project relates to the establishment of a polymetallurgical plant at the Bolivar mining enterprise, which comes under the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL).

The third complete project is associated with the intensification of the mining development work to provide raw material to the tin volatilization plant in La Palca, in Potosi.

Missions

Based on the bilateral agreements that exist between these governments (Bolivia and the Soviet Union), the aforementioned technical support is called for, to be followed later by economic and financial backing as well, in order to undertake the metallurgical projects that have been cited.

It has been announced that, by 20 March, a geological technical mission will arrive, to be responsible for the prospecting and exploration of tin and other mining resources in the areas of the three projects.

The agents who met yesterday with the minister of mining, Carlos Carvajal, also said that, at a later date, another mission will arrive in Bolivia to study the other phases of mining and metallurgical production at Machacamarca and Bolivar.

With the results of these studies, it will be possible to determine the amounts of financing that will be necessary in order to undertake the aforementioned mining and metallurgical programs.

2909

CSO: 3348/390

GDR OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO FARM, OIL SECTORS

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Several companies in the German Democratic Republic have offered technical assistance for the study and execution of development projects, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The offers were made known during the International Fair at Leipzig, held between 11 and 17 March of this year.

Based on reports from the Bolivian delegation which attended that fair, there are good chances of arriving at agreements that will facilitate the transfer of technology and afford the reception of new investment capital.

The Techno Comerz enterprise offered technical advice for the construction and modernization of slaughterhouses. The offer will be reported to the country's municipal mayor's offices. There is a possibility of obtaining financial aid from the Canadian Government, for whatever feasibility studies may be necessary.

The VES Industria Consult enterprise of Berlin expressed an interest in arranging agreements with the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons, to conduct geodesic and photogrammetric studies with a view toward the locating of new mineral and hydrocarbon reserves.

The Elektrotechnic firm offered a variety of electrical equipment and cable of high quality. Contacts were made to have that enterprise participate in future bidding on materials to be called for by the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons.

Moreover, the Chemicanlagen Export Import enterprise confirmed its interest in supplying equipment and machinery for the oil industry, and complete installations for the petrochemical sector, including soda and plastic factories.

Finally, the Weimar Werke Kombinat firm offered facilities for the provision of special equipment for potato harvesting. This offer will be considered by the Bolivian Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology.

According to the official reports, these offers will be used for the study of future agreements on cooperation.

2909

CSO: 3348/396

COUNTRY SECTION

BOLIVIA

PEASANT AFFAIRS MINISTRY SIGNS AID ACCORD WITH JAPAN

La Paz HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The government of Japan has donated \$2 million for programs in the agricultural and livestock sector, on the basis of an agreement signed at the Ministry of Peasant, and Agricultural and Livestock Affairs (MACA).

At the respective signing, the head of the ministry, Jorge Medina Pinedo, representatives of the Japanese firms Mitsubishi and Marubeni, and the president of the Agricultural Bank were participants.

The sum is part of a total amount of 2.1 billion yen that the Japanese Government has granted to Bolivia since 1977, for the development of the agricultural and livestock sector.

The assistance will allow for the purchase of fertilizer, and farm machinery and equipment, to be used for various programs that are under way in the territory.

Appreciation

The minister of peasant, and agricultural and livestock affairs, Jorge Medina Pinedo, expressed appreciation for the offer, which will make it possible, in the current crisis, to solve various problems in agricultural and livestock production, and to cope with the problems relating to the intense rainfall that is upsetting the rural and urban areas.

He mentioned the execution of the Rural Electrification Project, the agricultural projects in Okinawa and San Juan, in Yapacani, and also the granting of loans to be given to small-scale native farmers, to rehabilitate their crops, from damage due to the drought and floods that occurred last year.

Also present at the signing of the contracts, in addition to the MACA authorities, were the third secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Bolivia, Masahiko Kobayashi; the president of the Agricultural Bank, Walter Pereira; the manager of the Japanese company Mitsubishi, Masahiro Tsuji; and the manager of the Marubeni firm, Toshio Shmojyo.

2909

CSO: 3348/396

COB LEADER ON RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT, DOMESTIC SCENE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 30 Mar 84 No 13 pp 72-73

[Interview with Bolivian Labor Federation head Oscar Sanjines Rodriguez, by Raul Lazo Gonzalez, in Havana; date not specified]

[Text] The relations between the trade unions and the present democratic government of Bolivia, headed by Dr Hernan Siles Suazo, have been tense, and constitute an essential, and we would say vital feature of the political and economic situation in the Andean country. It is for this reason that this question was the first one asked by BOHEMIA's reporter of Oscar Sanjines Rodriguez, head of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which the labor leader answered, taking advantage of the brief interval between two activities planned by the organizers of CTC's [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] 15th Congress for their foreign guests.

"COB has taken very seriously the statement by all the sectorial trade union congresses in the defense of the current democratic process; although we must say, frankly, that the wage situation and the economic situation have left a deep mark on the Bolivian labor movement and, sometimes, there is no consideration of the political situation. And if the political area is not given consideration, it is impossible to discern economic, social and cultural solutions. For all these reasons, we think that the next few months will be critical for the fate of democracy, the destiny of which will depend largely on how COB starts devising its plan for future action, which must be based on the maintenance of democracy, the present backing for which is rather weak.

"The legacy received from the fascist, authoritarian, military regimes is really burdensome: a crushed economy, insolvent institutions, and disregard for the people's rights, particularly during the Garcia Mesa and Hugo Banzer governments, which mortgaged the country, leaving it with an enormous foreign debt, having used its funds for completely unproductive plans that temporarily created the illusion of a very fleeting abundance for which the current generation will have to pay a high price. The situation became unsolvable; because the mines are without tools, and all their machinery is by now obsolete, as is that of the manufacturing industry; and the oil industry, represented by Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, has also been in serious straits.

"It is under these circumstances that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bolivian right and the narco-fascists are beginning to attack Hernan Siles Suazo's democratic government, causing the government of Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) to lose the opportunity for solving many problems, owing to the harassment to which it has been subjected.

"Most of COB is comprised of comrades who belong to the government parties. Nevertheless, the extreme left has been blackmailing us brutally, attempting to make the present economic difficulties appear to be a result of the present government; and, combined with the action by the imperialists, the situation has become very serious.

"It is in this context that, at COB's last expanded plenum meeting, another 48-hour strike was decided upon, to force the government to accept the 17 points submitted for its consideration, which were violated, despite their initial acceptance. And the fact is that, every time COB and the government reach an agreement achieved through mobilization of the masses, Bolivian private enterprise and the fascist circles immediately start moving as well; because they still have a great deal of maneuvering capacity, forcing the regime to change its position, and to back down. So, the government finds itself with increasingly fewer chances of meeting the demands of the labor and popular movement.

"Private enterprise accused our plan of attempting to 'Bolshevize' and 'Sovietize' Bolivia, but that is absolutely untrue. This is a patriotic program for national salvation; it cannot be considered 'wage-oriented' because, as we noted previously, it is a program to overcome the crisis, which is also like saying it is to overcome the right wing conspiracy. That program states where and in what way a series of plans can and should be financed, and it is aimed particularly at defending the Bolivian state. For example, it stipulates that only Bolivia's mining corporation is to market the country's ores, and that gold is also to be developed and marketed by COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] and mention is made in it of taxes and of how to extricate YAPACEBE from its economic inactivity. It is, in short, a program for genuine national salvation, which should be accepted by the government, so that it may become more closely united with the working class and, by means of popular support, check the right wing's attempts. But, thus far, the government's action has been marked by indecision, allowing itself to be pressured by the right. Nevertheless, we expect the proposal of a clearcut, coherent plan from the current governing team, because otherwise, it runs the risk of becoming 'right wing oriented.' We need to be told whether there is an intention of advancing together with the labor movement to overcome the crisis which, I repeat, is also a way of overcoming the conspiracy."

[Question] What role is the International Monetary Fund playing as an element to destabilize the Brazilian economy, aimed at fostering economic and political conditions that could result in a coup?

[Answer] Bolivian workers have always been aware of the dictates of that nefarious organization, whose typical conduct is well known: wage freezes, interference in internal affairs, etc. Dr Siles Suazo claims that he will not subject himself to those dictates from the IMF. We must acknowledge the fact that the president is trying to maintain a balance, and not run a government totally subjected to the World Bank. Nevertheless, the Fund has been sending commissions to Bolivia which they claim are merely to obtain information and hence not of a negotiating nature. In June or July, those negotiations will begin. At the same time, that financial institution is attempting to surround the government with promises, offering it between \$150 and \$250 million. It is the IMF's typical blackmail, but we Bolivian workers shall not let ourselves be deceived, and we shall remain heedful of the progress of those negotiations, the only purpose of which, on the IMF's part, is to subject the government definitively and to benefit the right.

[Question] What is concealed behind the constant confrontation on the part of the right wing Congress with the Bolivian democratic government?

[Answer] Despite the fact that UDP has won on three occasions through a direct vote by the people, the right has managed to impose itself on the Congress. We have already stated that this Congress of 1980 is a threat to the development of presidential power; because although the president has the government, he lacks power. We must admit that this right wing Congress has represented the greatest external obstacle to Siles Suazo's carrying out the measures that he wished to adopt on behalf of the Bolivian people. Congressional activity has become a kind of lid on all the government's popular measures. It is a Congress which has demagogically and spuriously accused the government of being responsible for the present difficulties, holding it to blame for the crisis; whereas, in reality, its origins date back to the damage left behind by the government of Paz Estenssoro, along with those of Hugo Banzer and Mario Gutierrez, of the Bolivian Socialist Falange.

Nevertheless, it must be said that President Hernan Siles Suazo has been quite undecisive, and has not given an effective response for emerging from the crisis, through bold measures for national salvation; and therefore the problem is becoming increasingly acute. According to the Constitution, the president of the republic is the only one responsible for appointing new ministers and confirming them in their offices. However, Dr Siles now has the country marking time until the reorganization of the cabinet, and is getting lost in useless, indecisive questions as to whether it should be the independent technocrats or the parties that are to send the individuals who will make up the new government. We claim that it should be the parties that must be represented in the cabinet, because they are the ones with commitments to be fulfilled for the people.

In this chaotic situation, the Congress appears to be sponsoring new elections, in which the right wing parties hope to gain the government. This right wing oriented Congress is going along with the destabilization, attempting to have

the democratic process discredited, and the government collapse completely, so that the people, so they think, will feel the need for a coup and ask the Armed Forces and the Congress to demand Siles Suazo's resignation and his departure from the country, so as thereby to call for new elections which, they also hope, would have to be won by the Historical Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNRH) and Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN).

The Congress is helping to spread dissatisfaction but, through its fault, Siles Suazo's government itself has been weakened a great deal, with its action increasingly confined to a smaller radius. The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has just left UDP and is now on the opposition; and although the Christian Democratic Party has replaced it in the government, it is no longer the same thing. UDP has exhausted itself in the government, and is not intact, making it necessary for Siles Suazo's government to come closer to the people.

[Question] With this entire state of division among the Bolivian democratic forces, the right will certainly attempt to fish in troubled waters and foster the coup, either through the traditional military backing or that from Congress. How is COB preparing for that contingency?

[Answer] CONADE, the National Committee for the Defense of Democracy, existed in the past, but has now disappeared. It must be admitted with concern, that we have fewer anti-coup expedients than in the past; but we are determined to defend democracy. We have told the government, despite the differences that exist, that we are ready to fight to the last consequences on behalf of the Bolivian democratic process. That is a COB commitment to all the people.

Moreover, through a Security Commission, we are processing all the coup information, from the traditional military uprising to the congressional coup. We know that there are members of the military who would like the democratic process to collapse and become totally discredited, the economic crisis to become worse so as to foster the people's dissatisfaction, and the government to appear incapable of solving the ills besetting us. In this way, so they think, the people will begin yearning for the arrival of the military in power. History has taught us that this type of "hasty" fascist military uprising, which no longer considers the traditional coup, does exist. Nevertheless, realizing the repudiation that the Bolivian people have for it, aware that their backwardness and dependence stem largely from the military governments that we have suffered, there are other wiser coup-oriented military who are seeking a different course of action: what has been termed the congressional coup, which would bring the right wing parties representing their image and likeness to power.

[Question] What role is the Yankee embassy in La Paz playing in this bustling coup and destabilizing activity?

[Answer] Three or four days before the 1980 coup, the American ambassador visited the Palace, and the Bolivian COB, informing us that they would not give the green light for any coup. The results are by now well known. Until a few months ago, that was also very evident, because the United States ambassador, on occasion intervening in the internal politics of my country, the Yankee government itself and even senators were expressing their ostensible repudiation for the coup attempts. But actually, in essence, they are brazenly aiding the right and seeking to destabilize Bolivian economically. They have threatened to cut off the "assistance" with wheat if what they term state subsidies are not eliminated. In short, the United States has actually always been playing a hypocritical "democratic" double game, but concealing a brazen support for the right. Because of its record, we cannot and must not trust any of those statements of alleged respect for democracy made by the United States imperialists.

[Question] How has COB received the reestablishment of democratic relations between Cuba and Bolivia?

[Answer] COB is not affiliated with any continental nor worldwide movement, but the great sympathy that we feel for the Cuban revolution and the common struggle making us brothers, based on the COB proposition identifying it with the consolidation of democracy, national liberation and socialism, has caused us to receive with extreme gratification, celebration and salutation the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

By way of farewell, the COB leader expressed "a warm greeting to the Cuban workers who, with their selfless work at this congress and their daily toil, are determined to have socialism become consolidated in Cuba, so as to be an example and a guide for the Latin American peoples."

2909
CSO: 3348/390

KARACHIPAMPA WORKERS OUTLINE DEMANDS, PROPOSALS

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Potosi, 11 April--The workers' and professionals' unions of the Karachipampa metallurgical complex, located 10 kilometers from this city, have issued a document in which they analyze the status of this plant, and request that the government adopt a serious, definitive policy for guaranteeing the satisfactory operation of that foundry.

The document states: "The lack of a clearcut, definite policy in the government for mining and metallurgy has allowed for the imposition of an order whereby the metals produced by the National Smelting Enterprise (ENAF) from COMIBOL's [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] concentrates will be returned to the latter company for exclusive marketing by it; and there is not yet any government ruling for Karachipampa's production, thus leaving the complex without a direction or guidance in this regard."

It adds that, in the case of the concentrates accumulated at Antofagasta, since there have been no foreign purchasers, high prices for storage in port have been paid since December. It stresses that, upon the mobilization of the people of Potosi and their civic entities, the government has admitted its mistake in having promulgated that order for free exporting of concentrates, and has now ordered the reimporting of 3,200 tons of silver-lead concentrates from Antofagasta, forcing the Karachipampa company to pay the freight charges for transportation to Potosi.

Decisions

In view of the situation that has been created at Karachipampa, the workers and professionals at that center have made the following decisions:

1. To demand of the government attention and backing for the metallurgical complex, by the immediate promulgation of the necessary decrees to allow for prompt operation and service for the plant.
2. Creation of an integrated national mining and metallurgy company with associative participation by a single board of directors, comprised of COMIBOL,

ENAF and the Karachipampa complex, and with a general manager backed up by a mining management, a metallurgical management and a marketing management.

On this latter point, they add: "The mining management would combine all the mining companies of the Bolivian Mining Corporation; the metallurgical management would combine ENAF, SCMK, La Palca, METABOL and the Bolivar mine; and the marketing management would be concerned with the negotiation, implementation and sale of the production from the companies comprising the major national mining and metallurgical company.

3. The establishment of a clearcut, definite policy on mining and metallurgy that will integrate them in a harmonious, consistent manner, safeguarding the supreme interests of the state and the great majorities.

2909

CSO: 3348/396

MNRH PEASANTS LEVEL ATTACKS AGAINST MIR LEADERSHIP

Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] The Peasant Command of the MNRH [Historic National Revolutionary Movement] has condemned the participation of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in the government and its position on the food subsidies. The MNRH accuses the MIR of trying to socialize Bolivia.

The peasant sector of the MNRH claimed that "among the extortionary propositions it had the audacity to make to Siles the most noteworthy was its cruel opposition to lifting the subsidies."

It added that at present "the entire nation must endure the adverse effects of the short-sighted policy of subsidies that translate into long lines for food, especially bread."

It also claimed that "a monstrous black market has resulted from this, in which government officials and the leaders of the neighborhood juntas get rich overnight, becoming hustlers, smugglers of food and fuel, commissioners of markets and fairs."

The MNRH asserted that "bread merchants are the most blatant offenders, making a big enough fortune to last several generations by reselling subsidized flour while the people suffer."

"In addition to this calamity," went on the MNRH, "something even more serious is taking place: the audacious smuggling of 100,000 liters of gasoline per month to neighboring countries. This volume could only be taken across the borders with official complicity."

It also pointed out that despite this desperate situation, the MIR is cruelly opposed to lifting the subsidies, ignoring the popular clamor "simply because this party is already devoted to socializing Bolivia, thus treacherously stabbing it in the back, because the people have struggled for democracy, not socialism."

According to the MNRH peasants, "the MIR members are trying to take over food and fuel, because whoever controls them is the master of the population. They are copying the methods of the Russians, the Cubans, the Nicaraguans and the

Vietnamese, who control their people through the stomach, depriving them of food and keeping them on their knees."

The MNRH peasants warn that they will not countenance the ideological rule of the stomach, because "this technique is being instigated by the hundreds of Cuban and Nicaraguan advisers who have infiltrated into the centers of power in the nation."

8926

CSO: 3348/394

BRIEF

UNEMPLOYMENT SUBSIDY BILL--In order to provide some relief for the unemployed, the government must establish an unemployment subsidy, claimed MNRH [expansion unknown] Deputy Ciro Humbold Barrero. He stated that this subsidy would have to be financed by the General Treasury of the Nation. "Moreover," he stressed, "the state would be able to draw up contracts for a limited term." In addition, new settlements should be established to engage in agriculture, livestock raising, and small craft industries, he noted. He termed the unemployment problem "alarming," although there are no exact figures. "In the city of La Paz we find the unemployed in Puente Artigas, Calacoto or Calle Ungas, where dozens of people wait to be hired," he said. The deputy stated that no one protects this army of jobless people, giving the impression that they are not part of the Bolivian nation. "All the voices that are raised--and with reason--are for the wage-earners and their sources of employment. But no one is looking out for those who have no bread," he asserted. Humboldt Barrero contended that this serious social problem should be confronted soon, because it involves numerous families, not only in the city of La Paz but in the interior of the country as well. The MNRH deputy announced that in the next session of the Legislature, which begins on 6 August, he will introduce a bill designed to solve part of the unemployment problem. He also stated that "the vast majority of jobless workers not only suffer from the vicissitudes of poverty, the lack of housing, food and medical care, but also from other adverse effects that range from psychological problems to personal and family instability for those who are out of work." [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 5] 8926

CSO: 3348/394

BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICANS BUILDING SHIPYARD--A SOUTH African company has won a contract worth nearly R14-million to build a ship repair yard at Punta Arenas in Chile. A spokesman for the successful company Sandock-Austral (Pty) (Ltd), which is a subsidiary of General Mining, said yesterday that the project had been made possible by the granting of export credit over by a major insurance corporation. After completion in about 15 months, the company would operate the facility on a halfshare bases with a Chilean government undertaking. The company, which has highly specialised engineering expertise and facilities, is based on the East Rand and has a shipyard in Durban. The project involves the local manufacture of a launching and recovery system and all technical equipment, which will then be shipped to the construction site for erection by Chilean labour under South African supervision. He said that the selection of Punta Arenas for the project--in the Straits of Magellan at the southern tip of South America--will not only be a boon to the local fishing industry but also to foreign shipping needing repairs while passing through the notoriously stormy seas around Cape Horn. The nearest alternative ship--repair facility is 2 000 km away, in central Chile, on the Southern American West Coast. The facility will employ 60 local people on the construction site and an initial 120 in its operation, rising to 1 500 in five years. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 2 May 84 p 11]

CSO: 3300/5

CONGRESS CONCLUDES ELECTORAL FRAUD INVESTIGATION

Committee Demands TSE Compliance

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Quito, 3 Apr--Members of the special commission that investigated irregularities in the 29 January election presented the general report and the reports of the technical advisors to the president of the National Congress, Gary Esparza.

As he presented the reports, deputy Vicente Burneo as duty officer explained that after completing the difficult and delicate chore of studying the 29 January election, the members of the commission were pleased to present the reports which had been unanimously approved.

Three Recommendations

He explained that the general report is very clear in stating the countless irregularities that occurred during the election. However, the commission is not prepared to make a statement as to whether or not the irregularities were intentional.

However, in its capacity as special commission for the National Congress, it should demand compliance with the law by the Supreme Electoral Court, and therefore three basic recommendations are set forth: first, that for the elections scheduled for next 6 May, the voting lists include all Ecuadorean citizens who are legally eligible to vote; second, that the ballots be numbered consecutively so it cannot be alleged that they are illegal; and third, that the election boards be comprised of representatives of the two political factions that will participate in the elections next 6 May.

He emphasized that the Supreme Electoral Court has an obligation to comply precisely with these recommendations because the Ecuadorean people demand it, and there cannot be a repetition of the mistakes which occurred last 29 January.

He stated that the nation must rest assured that its next president was elected in a framework of normality and honesty.

Recommendations to TSE

The president of the Congress, Gary Esparza, expressed his gratitude for the work carried out by the special commission, pointing out that it was a difficult and delicate chore which had stirred up the interest of all Ecuadoreans.

He explained that he will give the recommendations all the merit they deserve and that they will be forwarded to the Supreme Electoral Court so that they can comply exactly with them.

He pointed out that the Congress and especially the president of Parliament will be monitoring to ensure that the Supreme Electoral Court carries out the recommendations with regard to the voting lists, ballots and the makeup of the boards that will be collecting the ballots.

Finally, he said that he earnestly hoped that the election process moves ahead so that on 6 May no citizen feels frustrated by not having been able to exercise his/her right to vote.

TSE Vice-President Rejects Report

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Quito, 3 Apr--The vice-president of the Supreme Electoral Court, Dr Fernando Enriquez Parra, vigorously rejected the reports and resolutions approved by the special commission of the National Congress as being partial and unilateral, in reference to the recommendations of the special commission of five legislators that investigated the irregularities which occurred in the last election.

The reports, while dismissing the existence of "electoral fraud," pose various questions regarding the organization of the election last 29 January.

Nevertheless, Enriquez Parra said that the resolutions in the report contain several errors of a legal and technical nature and carry false information which does not correspond to the legal and technical reality of the election process.

Unilateral Decision.

Enriquez Parra said that the Supreme Electoral Court was never invited, much less welcomed by the special congressional commission because it wanted to put forth its own technical and legal views; that is to say, a unilateral resolution has been passed with the intention of discrediting the electoral process.

We can verify that the Commission only received reports that were partial to and served the interests of those, who in an organized manner, came forward hurling insults and lies beginning with the very night of 29 January.

Will Not Accept Reports

Enriquez Parra admitted that there were errors relating to incorrect information given to citizens who came to vote on 29 January, but the problem of the voter lists was the sole responsibility of the Civil Register.

He added that the ballots were numbered and arranged in series, a fact he could confirm and was prepared to prove to any judge.

He indicated that the Supreme Electoral Court would present its points of view to the nation in a calm and reasonable manner, and he announced that he rejected the reports and conclusions because they were based on the political criteria of the members of the Commission.

With respect to the report of the technical advisor, he rejects it because it is "partial and immoral" since it was prepared by the nephew of the director general of the Conservative Party who must certainly have been the person who initiated, directed and supervised the report since in his capacity as spokesman for the Court, he was not able to do it.

Supreme Court Meeting

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Quito, 3 Apr--The Supreme Court of Justice in full session will meet today, Tuesday, at 3:00 pm in special session for the purpose of resolving two pending issues which have been under discussion for several months and which are related to the legal and juridical situation relating to members of the Supreme Electoral Court.

Legal Judgment

In the first place, the Supreme Court of Justice will hear the report of the special commission regarding authorization requested by the president of the board, Dr Carlos Pozo Montesdeoca, to initiate action against the members of the Supreme Electoral Court. This is due to the fact that those officials enjoy immunity during the period of time in which they are fulfilling their duties, a judgment that originates from an accusation brought before the Supreme Court by lawyer Gil Garcia Gavilanez. It charges members of the Supreme Electoral Court of violating constitutional and legal voting regulations relating to suffrage rights by leaving thousands of Ecuadoreans on the fringe of the legitimate right to vote in the recent elections.

The report on this petition will be presented by Supreme Court justices Drs Gonzalo Zambrano, Vinicio Andrade Alava and Efrain Torres Chavez.

Revocation of Appointments

As a concomitant or complementary issue of the previous decision, the Supreme Court of Justice will rule on the petition of the vice-presidential candidate of the National Reconstruction Front, Dr Blasco Penaherrera, to have the appointments of Drs Carlos Pardo Montiel and Marco Aguirre Apolo revoked as spokesmen for the Supreme Electoral Court representing the Supreme Court of Justice.

LEON FEBRES CORDERO UNDERLINES VOTING IRREGULARITIES

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] Presidential candidate Leon Febres Cordero emphasized yesterday the seriousness of voting irregularities verified by the parliamentary investigative commission which discovered improper preparation of the register of voters by a computation firm controlled by members of the Democratic Left.

The candidate pointed out the seriousness of the irregularities because they are documented in a report prepared by a legislative committee made up of a pro-government and a "pro-convergent" (in his words) majority.

Among the serious anomalies reported by the parliamentary investigative commission, Febres Cordero mentioned:

- a) The preparation of the register outside of the Supreme Electoral Court.
- b) The compiling of the voting register by the COMPUTEC firm, run by factions directly tied to the Democratic Left.
- c) The untimeliness of the preparation of the lists.
- d) The omission of thousands of documented individuals.
- e) Innumerable address changes.
- f) A lack of correlation between the voting census and the lists published by the press.
- g) The electoral ballots were not numbered (which was interpreted by Febres Cordero as the reason for the ease with which the Supreme Electoral Court completed the large rural packets).

Febres Cordero stated, "The political lieutenants, obeying the orders of the government, placed thousands of votes in the ballot boxes which favored the candidates that it supported."

Legal Violations

He stressed that the same parliamentary commission admitted that all of those irregularities violated Articles 5, 16, 19, 36 and 41 of the Election Law.

COMPUTEC

Furthermore, Febres Cordero presented an extensive report prepared by a group of specialists in computation who discovered that the programming for the preparation of the voting lists was begun before the contract with the Supreme Electoral Court was signed.

"That is to say," stated Febres Cordero, "that even before the court had assigned 'the job,' COMPUTEC, which is controlled by the Democratic Left, was already planning how to cheat the Ecuadorean people."

The same special group of investigators mentioned by the candidate criticized the Supreme Electoral Court specialists for trying to assign to programmers the errors which should have been attributed to computer programming under the responsibility of COMPUTEC.

Act Signed Prematurely

Febres Cordero criticized the irregularities in the recent ceremony of proclamation of Borja and Rigail, giving assurances that the Supreme Electoral Court had drawn up and signed the corresponding act before the session which had been convened for that purpose had begun.

Evidence

The candidate interpreted all of the above as "new evidence that on 29 January the right of Ecuadoreans to choose their leaders freely was violated."

He said, "Let Dr Borja not affirm the peculiar thesis that we are trying to deny the value of those who were lucky enough to be able to vote. We defend not only the 2.6 million Ecuadoreans who were able to vote but also the hundreds of thousands who were on the fringe."

Agreement With Communists

He gave assurances that the "agreement that the convergents have with the Communist Party through the Broad Front of the Left [FADI] will be overturned by a nation of people who are tired of listening to the incoherency and vagueness of those who are not prepared to resolve the nation's problems."

He warned that the country will go in the direction indicated by the people and will not let itself be led by those who have shown their lack of ability and inexperience and who today have not resigned themselves to respecting the will of the people, "trying to shut out those of us who have not been participants in the pettiness and irresponsibility."

Debate

"Once again, I challenge the official candidate to debate with me before the nation the solutions which the Ecuadorean people are demanding," he concluded.

LABOR MINISTER DESCRIBES PLAN TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] Minister of Labor Carlos Padilla Natareno told reporters yesterday that the reorganization of the National Employment Office is one of many formulas to fight unemployment. It is not the complete solution as some people believe, especially politicians who do not understand the effort being made to reduce unemployment.

"The idea that by reorganizing the National Employment Office we can solve the situation lies only in the empty heads of people interested in not seeing the positive side. In my earlier speech, I stressed that the ministry's plan includes many programs such as economic revitalization, incentives for home industry and stimulation of national and foreign investment to create new job sources.

"The state has already placed 30,000 workers on 310 work fronts. Several private investors have joined us in the placement of other workers without getting into any disputes since that is not what we are interested in."

The minister was asked how the plan was going. He revealed that this was the concrete question--"the plan." Reorganization of the National Employment Office is only one part of the plan to try to lower the rate as much as possible using every means.

He also said that some sectors have misinterpreted and think that, by merely reorganizing this office, this problem will be solved. Those who think this are mistaken since it is one part of the total program that the ministry has proposed to lower the unemployment rate.

Padilla Natareno said: "There are even negotiations with the banks for loans to medium and small enterprises so that they can increase their production capacity. This will increase skilled manpower and opportunities for employment."

He concluded: "When we as officials try to carry out our jobs, we run into someone to criticize us. That is good because the facts speak for themselves, especially to politicians who want to grab any opportunity."

7717
CSO: 3248/572

NON-GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SAYS ABUSES INCREASING

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Apr 84 p 32

[Paid announcement by CDHG Executive Council; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The CDHG [Human Rights Commission of Guatemala] is a humanitarian institution made up by apolitical, independent (nongovernmental) Guatemalans. It is affiliated with the FIDH [International Federation for the Rights of Man] based in Paris, France, a UN consultant organization.

Due to the situation that prevails in our country--characterized by the existence of a pattern of serious, constant and systematic violations of human rights--our commission was forced to establish its offices in Mexico City with branches in: San Jose, Costa Rica; Montreal, Canada; Washington, D.C., United States; and Madrid, Spain.

The commission's main objective is to investigate and denounce internationally what is happening in the field of human rights in Guatemala. Human rights is understood integrally--that is, covering economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, the right to justice, the right to life and physical integrity and the humanitarian international right.

The commission's recent activities include attending international forums like the UN General Assembly in New York and the meetings of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. The commission has also established relations with international humanitarian organizations such as the CIDH [Inter-American Human Rights Commission] of the OAS, Amnesty International, Pax Christi, the World Council of Churches, the International League for the Defense of the Rights of the Peoples, the International Commission of Jurists, the World University Service, etc.

Facing the serious increase in human rights violations in our country recently, the commission has decided to organize an international campaign to save the lives of the "arrested-missing" persons. It also wants all persons who were placed under the jurisdiction of the abolished Special Courts released or, when pertinent, tried by ordinary criminal courts where trials must /begin/ under the requirements established in the existing Criminal Procedure Code as well as international laws that have been signed and ratified by our country,

particularly those established in the American Convention on Human Rights (San Jose Pact).

As part of this campaign, the CDHG makes the following /public appeal/:

1. To the government of the republic to heed recommendations made to it by the CIDH-OAS as well as by the UN special court observer for Guatemala, Viscount Colville de Culross, that it issue a detailed list of the people who were sent to the Special Courts indicating their current legal status. Also that it release all those persons who have been tried and sentenced in those courts, given the obvious illegality of these trials or, in any case, have their legal situation established by the Judicial Branch. Heeding recommendations made by international organizations like the FIDH, that it begin investigations to determine whether there are secret jails in the country and to determine the whereabouts of the thousands of people who have disappeared. That it take the pertinent measures to eliminate this type of **detention center** and the illegal repressive practices, punish those responsible for these actions and release all those people who might have been victims of these practices.
2. To the Supreme Court of Justice, especially its president, Ricardo Sagastume Vidaurre, that he honor the many public statements he has made about the independence, objectivity and impartiality of the court he heads and request that the Executive Branch faithfully comply with the national and international legal norms on human rights in order to resolve the points expressed in this appeal. Also that it make effective in Guatemala the guarantees granted to the citizens by legal instruments like injunctions and /habeas corpus/ (personal appearance).
3. To the people of Guatemala that, heeding the spirit of this appeal, they make known to the commission all violations of human rights on which they have information so that we can mobilize world public opinion from abroad in defense of the rights of the Guatemalans and demand that the authorities of our country completely comply with the norms that they are obliged to respect because of the duty that our internal legislation imposes as well as international laws.

This correspondence can be sent to:

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Apartado Postal 5-582, C.P. 06500
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Send copies to:

1. CIDH
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
United States of America
2. UN Human Rights Center
Palace of the Nations
1211, Geneva 10 Switzerland

[Signed] CDHG Executive Council
"For the Right of a People to Live"

POLITICAL FORUM SPEAKERS CRITICIZE KISSINGER REPORT

USAC's Meyer Sees 'Interventionism'

Guatemala City LA RAZON in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] Noting that he would not criticize the "Kissinger Report" from any angle, San Carlos University President Dr Eduardo Meyer said that the document indicates a clear intention toward interventionism in the area, the moment one realizes that the United States "continues with its determination to be the arbiter of decisions, which implies intervention."

In speaking at the "Seventh National Political Forum," Meyer recalled the skepticism that sprang up due to the assumption that the short time the Commission spent in the countries would not enable it to get an in-depth grasp of the problem. Now we have a report which "is a hasty but sincere effort to solve the problems."

The University's president said that, if one analyzes it superficially, the report is more in the nature of an expression of good will. It shows that Central America is no longer just of great importance but has become a strategic area for the powers, that is, the United States or the Soviet Union.

But a more thorough analysis will reveal a different situation because as yet unknown aspects of the situation prevailing in the region will emerge.

It is necessary to point out something that cannot be concealed: The prevalence of the hard line over the soft line. And, between the lines, one can read that there was no agreement but rather that there were many disagreements among the Commission members. These might possibly be the result of the influence of conservatism and liberalism.

Meyer pointed out that the "Kissinger Report" reveals two tendencies as regards the placement of the East-West context [as published]. While the further aggravation of the crisis is attributed to Soviet influence and above all to its intensification, it is admitted that its causes also include social injustice and the mistaken policies carried out in the region.

Meyer asked himself which came first: The chicken or the egg. Was there first social, economic, and political injustice or did insurgency come first? The solution to the prevailing situation will turn out to be correct, depending on the correct answer to this question.

If armed insurgency is responsible for the aggravation of the crisis, then it must be controlled, but if the crisis springs from social injustice, then efforts must be aimed at eliminating it and thus putting an end to insurgency, Meyer Maldonado pointed out.

In other words, it is necessary concretely to determine what the original cause of the tragic situation experienced by more than 90 percent of the inhabitants was and on that basis a process of solution must be launched.

The Interventionist Thesis

According to the remarks made by Meyer Maldonado, there is an interventionist thesis in the "Kissinger Report," which was drafted by the so-called Bipartisan Commission for Central America, made up of democratic and republican representatives.

It is noted that the United States "continues to be determined to be the arbiter of decisions in the Central American region and this can only imply intervention."

Another one of the observations made by the university president showed that the solutions proposed in the report do not go to the root of the problems and boil down to economic development.

As regards the process promoted by the "Contadora Group" to seek a solution, the report seeks to get along with that group and to attain advantages for purely election purposes in the United States.

It follows from this that the emphasis is on strengthening the oligarchies, both in the United States and in Central America, while the people of Central America are still waiting for the real solutions.

Among his other observations, the university president remarked that the countries of the Central American region need understanding and aid but that this cannot come about at the cost of intervention. "We do not believe in gifts, nor in crumbs," Meyer Maldonado said.

PHOTO CAPTIONS [Photos omitted]

[Left] In speaking regarding the analysis of the "Kissinger Report" at the Seventh National Political Forum, organized by the Center for Political Studies, State University President Eduardo Meyer Maldonado said that the outstanding aspect of the document is the determination of the United States to continue to be the arbiter in the decisions on Central America, something which can only imply intervention.

[Right] The leader of the recently established Labor Union Confederation of Guatemala, Juan Francisco Alfaro, stressed the idea that the "Kissinger Report," drafted by a republican-democratic commission, on request of President Ronald Reagan, impinges upon the sovereignty of the Central American peoples and pointed out that the crisis cannot be resolved by giving money.

CUSG Rejects Military Solutions

Guatemala City LA RAZON in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] Juan Francisco Alfaro, the top leader of the Labor Union Confederation of Guatemala, in participating in the above-mentioned event, stressed the idea that the "Kissinger Report" impinges upon the sovereignty of Guatemala and that of other countries in the area because it contains interventionist tendencies.

Alfaro--who said that he had no links or relations whatsoever with the so-called CNUS [Labor Union Unity Committee]--admitted that it is difficult to analyze a report which infringes upon sovereignty and where tendencies of interventionism stand out.

What is or was the idea behind it?

After asking himself this question, he replied that the idea undoubtedly was to strengthen what the United States has come to call "its backyard and there is no direct effort to seek solutions to the problems."

"We workers basically detect a warlike attitude here," said Alfaro, adding that the salvation of Central America is the true practice of social justice and doing away with the bloodshed of "our buddies."

Although the "Report" admits that the causes are rooted in social injustice, economic inequality, and political neutralization, the solutions proposed to the Central American issue reveal an obviously warlike pattern. "We do not need warrior-type solutions."

The Kissinger proposal is undoubtedly different from the idea advanced by the countries that make up the so-called "Contadora Group."

Alfaro suggested that the Commission that wrote the "Kissinger Report" should back the solutions proposed by "Contadora." In other words, promote the reduction in armaments, withdrawal of military advisers, and establishment of true political pluralism which would make it possible to move toward democratization.

That pluralism must be effective and not formal, thus permitting the participation of the citizenry and respect for it.

In addressing the Seventh National Political Forum, Alfaro drew attention to the fact that the "Kissinger Commission" did not go back to the failed efforts of the past, such as the Program of the Alliance for Progress and the Central American Common Market.

The labor union leader noted that he is not pessimistic; but he did say that the program contained in the "Kissinger Report" will be a failure because the solutions do not go to the root of the problems of the isthmus but rather seek the prevalence of United States hegemony in this region.

5058
CSO: 3248/580

RETALHULEU CDF REORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 70

[Article by Victor Manuel Arevalo Reina: "Retalhuleu Defense Patrols to Be Reorganized"]

[Text] Reorganizing the civilian self-defense patrols, giving them an incentive, and making their members aware of the importance of that civic duty to the fatherland and, more particularly, to provide physical safety for the inhabitants in view of the rise in common crime--that is the intention of current authorities in Military Zone 16 in this town.

The above was announced recently by Maj Diaz Solis who spoke for the high-ranking officials of that military organization during a press conference held in the town's ceremonial hall.

Among the main points of his remarks, Maj Diaz Solis indicated that he is ready to correct the mistakes that gave rise to the systematic desertion of several hundred patrol members thus virtually leading to the disappearance of all groups constituting the night-time squads.

Among these negative aspects, the newsmen present alerted him to the dictatorial attitude of many of the group commanders who intimated and coerced the patrol members even to the point of terrorizing them to the detriment of their physical condition.

On the other hand, there was the by no means edifying spectacle of groups of patrol members, with their leaders, swaggering along the streets in their sector, completely drunk, thus becoming a threat to local families who had to put up with all kinds of night-time noises and annoyances.

Also raised was the problem created by many fanatics from religious groups and children of wealthy families who, when their turn came to do patrol duty, shirked their responsibility either by absenting themselves without a good excuse or by using the unlawful method of bribery.

Maj Diaz Solis emphasized categorically that all of these irregularities would be eliminated. They are planning three or four conferences each month with the public relations committee of the civilian self-defense patrols, made up members of the local press; they are going to improve the cultural hour of that organization and they will create an easier schedule and duty roster when it comes to making the rounds.

Although it is true, he added, that it is not an obligation to join that civilian body, the fact is that its presence in this country is so urgent and necessary not only as a good citizen but also to protect the people, to preserve the tranquility of the inhabitants and of the families in the area.

Census Problems

About 20,000 residents in various communities under the jurisdiction of the departmental capital of Retalhuleu have had untold troubles in complying with the requirement for registration, as was pointed out to this correspondent recently.

Relatively long distances, the lack of transportation, the very poor condition of the roads, most of which are dirt roads, and the irregular schedules add up to the worst problems which they so far continue to put up with, although with an attitude of resignation.

Among the towns involved we might mention, for example, Caballo Blanco, La Montana, La Blanquita, Las Cruces, Jesus La Bomba, Las Victorias and El Salto, just to indicate a few. They also had to travel as many as 50 kilometers on foot to report for registration.

5058
CSO: 3248/580

BRIEFS

'VAT' EVASION--VAT [Value Added Tax] evasion reaches about 55 percent or an approximate total of 6 million quetzals per month, according to Minister of Finance Dr Leonardo Figueroa Villate yesterday. In a press conference at the national palace, he stated that this evasion occurs in the interaction between the consumer and the merchant. In other words, there is no awareness of the obligation of every citizen to pay his taxes according to law. In the case of the VAT, for example, if the merchant sells at a lower price without an invoice, it is logical to assume that the consumer will take what is best for him. He will not demand the sales document for his purchases. Figueroa Villate stated that because of the millions in VAT evasion, the Ministry of Finance will take strict measures of control that will be in effect in the coming months. Those measures include a single invoice checked by the ministry as well as control from the production sources to distribution. Also there will be the so-called "Government Lottery" that will be held during each period based on the number of invoices obtained for different purchases. With that incentive, the consumer will demand his invoice for every purchase he makes to "see if he can win the government lottery." Minister Figueroa noted that VAT evasion now reaches almost 6 million quetzals per month. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Apr 84 p 2] 7717

CSO: 3248/572

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

MOTA: OVER 7,000 DISMISSED AS PART OF POLICE FORCE REFORM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Apr 84 p 5-A

[Report by Nidia Marin]

[Excerpt] Ramon Mota Sanchez declared that a public security plan for the city is going to be put into effect by the Secretariat of Protection and Public Road Maintenance and the 16 precincts of the Department of the Federal District to combat crime. He asserted that more than 7,000 police have been dismissed, "and there are going to be many more," in accordance with the police reform that is being carried out "on all fronts."

In the face of the charges of armed robberies and break-ins into homes, Mota Sanchez admitted in an interview that the aforementioned program is being prepared and will be revealed soon to all the media, and will be illustrated with graphics and statistical data.

The head of the Secretariat of Protection and Public Road Maintenance was asked about the 7,000 policemen dismissed on charges of abusing their authority, to which he replied: "They miscalculated; there are more, many more, and there are going to be still more."

He said also that the campaign to reform the police corps is being carried out on all fronts. It began, he said with the salary increase, every policeman "received one and half times the minimum wage" in addition to other incentives such as savings funds, social security bank and a number of benefits to which the common workers do not have access."

He pointed out also that included in the campaign is the instruction that is given in the police academy, training for active members to provide promotion possibilities, and the roster which, he declared "will be handled like a crystal" so that there will not be any doubts.

At the same time, he commented that the citizens must collaborate with the police, reporting the violations and abuses committed by its members with the guarantee that the names of the accusers will remain anonymous to prevent any reprisal.

He mentioned that there have not been many accusations by the citizens.

PEASANT LEADERS COMMENT ON 10 APRIL DEMONSTRATION

Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish No 99, 26 May 84 p 2

[Text] The trend toward the union of three independent peasant organizations has taken shape in an unusual action of transcendental significance: the commitment to hold a national rally in the main plaza of Mexico City on 10 April. Participating in that agreement are the Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants (CIOAC), the Ayala Plan National Coordinating Organization (CNPA) and the General Union of Workers and Peasants of Mexico (UGOCM-Red). At the meeting, which will begin at 1800 hours, a speaker for each organization and another one for the ANOCP [expansion unknown] will take part.

The date on which the joint convocation of the peasant organizations is being called, 10 April, coincides with the anniversary of the assassination of General Emiliano Zapata. The CIOAC, CNPA and UGOCM-Red issued a political document describing the serious situation of the Mexican farm and the alternatives demanded of the government. In addition, they will disseminate propaganda in common and hold a press conference on 28 March. With regard to the regional situation, each organization will arrange the necessary alliances to carry out local protest actions that same day.

Our weekly interviewed a leader of the CNPA, one from the UGOCM-Red and one from the CIOAC with regard to the importance of this unprecedented agreement between revolutionary peasant organizations. This is what they said:

Rodolfo Ramirez, leader of the Union of Independent Ejidos of Sinaloa and member of the CNPA: "Unity of action is the formula for beginning to integrate the peasant movement, which has not occurred since the victory of the Mexican Revolution. The importance of this action sets the stage for consolidating the independent peasant movement and, on this occasion, the unity encompasses all sectors. At the national meetings and in the national congress of the CNPA, unity of action in everything that is possible was confirmed as one of the central objectives, even though that is difficult because of the front nature of the CNPA. Nevertheless, as we have implemented actions, the inexperienced concepts of some organizations that make up the CNPA have become superseded."

Cesar Navarro, secretary of the organization of the national committee of the UGOCM-Red: "This initial unity of action between different organizations

involved in the life and struggle of the peasants is the reflection of the general situation of the country and its repercussions among large sectors of the peasants. Independent of the membership of those who make up those organizations, the problems of the peasants are common. It is obvious that there is a thrust on the part of the government and private enterprise contrary to the interests of the peasant population.

"For the UGOCM-Red, in keeping the agreements of its fifth congress, the unity of the democratic and revolutionary movement of the peasants is one of its central tasks. That is the reason for our willingness to mobilize in a joint, planned way with those organizations prepared to fight on behalf of the peasants and farm workers. These initiatives have the prospect of going much further. We believe that conditions exist for the formation of a large federation of independent peasant organizations."

Jose Luis Hernandez, secretary of foreign relations of the CIOAC: "The unity agreement between the UGOCM-Red, CNPA and CIOAC is of important political value because it opens up channels that are going to enable us to overcome the dispersion of the independent peasant movement. This unity will also make it possible to establish a new correlation of forces to confront the government's dreadful agrarian policy. The important thing about this unity is that it is taking place on the bases of common initiatives of a programmatic nature which makes it possible for us to believe that this unity can develop upwards and that is going to contribute to the formulation of a common and complete program as an alternative to the agrarian policy of a bourgeois nature which the government is carrying out.

8711
CSO: 3248/565

BRIEFS

SOCONUSCO CATTLEMEN SUPPORT GOVERNMENT--Tapachula, Chiapas--The cattle-raising sector of Soconusco yesterday expressed its loyalty to the government of Castellanos Dominguez, loyalty expressed in work and organization. In a luncheon with the organized cattlemen of that region, the Chiapas chief executive affirmed that the solidarity of the cattlemen's association is proof that they are with the government that he heads as well as with President Miguel de la Madrid. Before the luncheon, the cattlemen thanked Castellanos Dominguez for the support his government gave to expand the places where at this time they exhibit the most select examples of their production. The president of the Cattlemen's Association of Suchiapa, Dr Carlos Gutierrez Vilchis spoke in the name of the cattlemen of the coast, declaring that there is now an unbreakable and loyal friendship between the people and the government in Chiapas.

[Excerpt] [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 1] 8711

MIGRANT, DRUG SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--Ciudad Juarez, Chih., 7 Apr--The Federal Judicial Police broke up a band of "runners" today. It was involved in drug traffic. They arrested three people for possession of marihuana and heroin worth more than 20 million pesos. The police commander in this city, Guillermo Salazar, indicated that 3,000 marihuana cigarettes and .5 kilograms of heroin were confiscated from Daniel Rios Corral, Luis Roberto Rodriguez Aguero and Romulo Islas Leyva. They also captured two important ringleaders of "runners": Jose Luis Chavira Carvallo and Jorge Romero Chaires. They were placed under the jurisdiction of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. Two vehicles--a Plymouth and a Cadillac--with New Mexico, United States, license plates were confiscated from them. [Text] [By Manuel Cabrera] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Apr 84 p 35-A] 7717

CSO: 5300/2148

REACTION TO FIRST PHASE OF NEW WAGE POLICY

CST Leader Addresses Problems

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 3

[Interview with Lucio Jimenez, CST leader: "Achievements, Difficulties in New Wage Policy"; date and place not given]

[Text] BARRICADA: What problems have occurred while putting the wage policy into effect and what solutions have been found?

Lucio Jimenez: The first problem and the most common is that since occupational qualifiers do not improve the standard of living of the workers, there are expectations that cannot be satisfied in the short term. Many workers see their wages increased noticeably, others do not receive substantial increases and still others have their wages frozen. With work standardization, wages will be tied to productivity and, therefore, productivity will increase. The qualifiers solve the distribution of social wealth only by the work done. We need to solve distribution through consumption--that is, taking into account the benefits the worker receives in health services, subsidies, etc.

The wage scale will not increase everyone's wages but the same wage will be paid for the same level of work complexity. This is an achievement because wage anarchy will be eliminated.

Another problem is the habitual anarchy in the production enterprises as well as the services. When pressured by demands for wage increases, many administrations grant them because there is the prospect of keeping past wages when the table is applied. There is a tendency toward paternalism in the state, especially. If the services sector distributes, through increased wages, a wealth generated by the production sector without increases in many branches of the production sector, the application of the wage policy is impaired.

A third problem is related to organizational development. Where there are more developed labor and union organizations, the application of the wage policy goes much faster. A union with a high capacity for assembly and discussion will not achieve the same results as another with greater backwardness. For example, many of the banana workers did not receive the appropriate wage but agreements were reached in meetings and assemblies without having to resort to

strikes. A high level of organizational development is necessary for the effective practice of union democracy.

Last, we would mention a problem related to conflicts which are due to development between the union leaders who have received technical training to discuss wages--whom we call base specialists--and the officials of MITRAB [Ministry of Labor] who many times have had to quickly learn about the characteristics and complexities of a certain area. These are better handled by the workers themselves. Although we understand the shortage of technicians in MITRAB, it would be desirable if it had a corps of economic specialists to discuss the wage policy. Anyway, we have made some proposals such as tying the work of the global committees where wage decisions are ultimately approved to the branch committees so that the same problems are not discussed at both levels and decisions can be reached faster.

BARRICADA: Which of the problems mentioned could mean widespread difficulties in the application of the system?

Lucio Jimenez: The paternalism and wage anarchy that have been observed. If the organized state workers do not renounce the disorganized wage increases, the system we are promoting will be affected. We would then be facing the need to prevent reaching an extreme dilemma: give up stopping the indiscriminate wage increases or raise the wages on the entire scale. Both of these would cause serious problems for our economic development. We understand the situation of many state workers since the wage policy will be applied to them as of July.

BARRICADA: What relationship has been observed between wage increases and the growth of productivity?

Lucio Jimenez: In the case of sugar, it has been notable. Here we see an increase in productivity combined with work standardization which is more precise in this area. It is relatively simple to define three qualities in cutting cane for a wage rate based on quality. This has meant a greater effort to improve cutting, affecting the quality of the sugar and even surpassing goals. Therefore, we conclude that the best results have been achieved in the cases where the work has been standardized like the sugar and banana sectors. We will soon see the results in the latter case.

However, in other branches like Aceitera Corona, for example, where there has not been work standardization, productivity has also grown enormously.

BARRICADA: As to the policy of incentives, what progress has there been in its formulation? If there has not been any progress, why?

Lucio Jimenez: The policy of incentives exists but it is not scientific; it does not follow a system. In many areas the basic wages which are very low are complemented by incentives. When applying the wage policy, there are substantial increases but the worker understands that incentives are not going to disappear. Now if we keep it as it is now, we would directly hurt productivity. In the case of the system, a work standard is established for the basic wage.

The incentive obeys fulfillment or overfulfillment of the standard. To disconnect wages from productivity would lead us to situations that would hurt the economic development of the country.

The policy of incentives must correspond to the wage system and can be applied where there is work standardization. The wages will motivate the worker to strive for incentives, increasing his productivity. That will tie his individual benefits to an increase in social benefits.

BARRICADA: What repercussion will the application of the wage policy have on employment?

Lucio Jimenez: The policy will have repercussions in favor of workers in the production sector. The application of the system has revealed many aspects of employment that must be changed. There are positions that have the same name but different complexities.

After the work organization system is applied strictly, some enterprises will have to revise their payrolls. This would not be a result of the wage policy but a case of the state improving its organization.

In general, rather than an increase in employment or unemployment, there would be a transfer of manpower from the service sectors to the production sectors.

BARRICADA: What mechanisms have been presented to guarantee compliance with the minimum wage?

Lucio Jimenez: The minimum wage hardly exists. The basic wage recognizes a certain work complexity. Before there was a minimum wage; now there are 27 basic wages based on complexity. The basic wage is the minimum for the worker. He can earn more with incentives established through work standardization or other mechanisms, agreements, tripartite committees, etc.

BARRICADA: What are the characteristics of the work agreements?

Lucio Jimenez: The agreements are provisional. After the application of the qualifiers which identify the work complexity, we will make an overall evaluation using the comparative method. Since discussions have been held within each branch, many complexities are not the same. In other words, if we take Group 2 on the table of occupations and compare it in 5 or 10 branches, we see that there are disparities. Therefore, there is a need for a final evaluation before going on to the next phase of the process.

CONAPRO Expresses Support

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] Freddy Cruz, president of Heroes and Martyrs CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professional Associations], appealed Saturday to all professionals to "assume the commitment of heading the discussion and implementation of the wage policy" in accord with the guidelines of the revolution.

When closing the seminar-workshop on the "Wage Policy and Its Phases of Implementation," the union leader praised the efforts of the revolutionary government to organize wages in this country during extremely difficult and dangerous times. He urged the Nicaraguan professionals to "produce more for defense and be ready to mobilize in this war situation."

Cruz said that, with the progress achieved in designing a correct wage policy, the members of CONAPRO must remain active and ready to face greater difficulties, making defense and production a motto that is even truer today.

The seminar-workshop was attended by about a hundred professionals who analyzed the methodology for evaluating the technical positions and drawing up wage qualifiers in order to "offer greater support in the implementation of the wage policy at the institutional level."

The director general of employment and wages of MITRAB, Carlos Perez, spoke at the meeting. He explained the structure of the wage system being implemented in our country and the objectives of the wage reorganization. The state will invest some 3 billion cordobas in this.

Perez recognized that although MITRAB is trying to solve the problems of the real wages of the workers, the measures adopted will not be the final solution unless there is strict price control. He indicated: "The basic problem of the wages of the workers is the lack of price control in our country."

The subsystems in the Nicaraguan Wage System include the national wage scale, occupational qualifiers and occupational categories, basic work standardization and the system of incentives. The basic principle of this structure is equal pay for equal work.

Carlos Perez pointed out that the occupational qualifiers will make it possible to group labor functions by technological similarity based on five categories: laborer, technician-professional, leader, administration and service. Occupational titles, work context and training policies will be defined in each case.

The MITRAB official said: "We are just beginning to lay the foundation for organizing a wage system in our country." He also said: "The basic foundation of the system is just principles and good income redistribution based on what each worker contributes to society."

Referring to the role of professionals in this work, Perez stated that professionals today have more opportunities to offer their knowledge to the people, contributing their technical experience to MITRAB for the definition of policies and work methods to organize the wage system.

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BISHOP COMMENTS ON ELECTION CLIMATE, PRESS COVERAGE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Mar 84 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, bishop of Managua, by Gabriela Selser, on 30 March 1984; place of interview not given]

[Text] "Not a single one of our sermons has been a political meeting!" asserted Monsignor Miguel Obando, bishop of Managua, yesterday during a wide-ranging interview with BARRICADA, in response to a question as to whether the Catholic Church or its hierarchy is actually an opposition party.

Asked as to why last Thursday's public letter on the subject of elections is identical to the one issued in 1974, Obando argued that this is because "It is like the case of the Commandments, in that if you were to ask me, I would tell you that the sixth forbids fornication and the fifth forbids killing, and I would again repeat them to you today. It could well be that we have coincided because it is one of the Church's teachings."

Obando also advocated "a dialogue with all concerned, applying the same approaches as are being used in El Salvador."

Asked by our reporter, Gabriela Sesler, regarding the United States's aggressions against our country, he replied, "I believe Nicaragua is being subjected to an ideological aggression by Russian and Cuban imperialisms as well as by other imperialisms."

As regards RADIO CATOLICA, which according to Monsignor Pablo Vega is the property of the Episcopal Conference, but which in practice is nevertheless being managed exclusively by Obando's people, the bishop of Managua replied: "Well, I can tell you there is no problem whatever! And I have no idea why BARRICADA should be concerned with these things."

At the conclusion of the interview, he demanded "that you publish me verbatim and in full. Otherwise, you compel me to call Germany and England immediately and say: "They have distorted my words!"

Following is the full text of the interview had by BARRICADA with the bishop of Managua, Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, who stated to us that if we failed to publish the interview in its entirety he would "immediately call Germany and England" to complain because "[BARRICADA] has distorted my words."

[Monsignor Obando]: Now, I do not have my recorder here, but we do have Monsignor Bosco Vivas, who is the secretary of the Conference...

[Question]: Monsignor Obando, we would like to start this conversation by addressing some of the points in the letter issued last Thursday by the bishops, in which the position taken with regard to elections is the same as the one expressed in 1974. Does this mean that in the Church's view the situation in Nicaragua has not changed in 10 years?

[Answer] I do not have before me now the 1974 Pastoral Letter to which you refer. What is important is that this a Church teaching and it is probably because of this that the points were reiterated. I do not have that letter and I believe that the Conference did not have it in hand at the time. It is like the case of the Commandments, in that if you were to ask me what they are, the Sixth Commandment forbids "fornication," and the Fifth forbids "killing," and I would repeat them to you again today. It could well be that we have coincided because it is one of the Church's teachings.

[Question] Are you saying that these principles do not change even though there may be a complete change in the country's situation?

[Answer] Look here: It says that one's vote must be a responsible one, and I believe that was valid 10 years ago and is still valid today; that a Christian cannot conscientiously vote against the principles of freedom demanded of him by his faith, and this is valid for all time; that no one can be compelled to vote against his or her own conscience, and this has been valid since I was a child, and we must still, today, respect our conscience. It seems to me that if these things have been valid heretofore, they continue to be valid now.

[Question] Even though one can expect elections today in Nicaragua to be different from Somoza's fraudulent elections?

[Answer] A vote must always be the expression of one's conscience. Any place and under any system.

[Question] Do you believe the elections will be prepared and carried out in an environment of freedom and mutual respect, as is said to be the desire of the bishops according to the letter?

[Answer] I do not wish at this moment to express a personal opinion; that is the desire of the Episcopal Conference. One's desires do not always turn out as one would like. Isn't that true? But that is their desire.

[Question] Monsignor, do you agree with what some political parties have said to the effect that proper conditions for an election do not exist in Nicaragua?

[Answer] Let me say here and now what I personally think. I have said it heretofore and been criticized by some of the media; I don't know if by BARRICADA. I said it in Honduras: For there to be a free election, an honest election, an appropriate environment must be created. The appropriate environment requires, among other things, harmony; it requires that there be freedom of expression, freedom of association. As a journalist, you know perfectly well that the media play a major role in the dissemination of information on platforms and in the orientation of public opinion.

[Question] As regards your recent visit to Honduras, you said there that freedom of expression was being violated in Nicaragua. Why did you make such statements?

[Answer] I would like you to quote me the exact words I used; if you do not have my exact words, it is difficult to talk, since things are taken out of context.

[Question] You said that social conditions did not exist here for the holding of free elections.

[Answer] I was referring to the climate. I was asked if the population was ready for elections and I stated that a climate had to be created, a climate of peace, of tranquility, and that there must also be freedom of expression. If freedom of expression is lacking, then I believe it cannot be said that there is a suitable climate.

[Question] What then, Monsignor, is the Church's position with respect to the elections?

[Answer] The Church's essential mission is evangelization. I was criticized, I think it was in EL DIARIO NUEVO, taking my words out of context. If you are referring to the institutional Church or the church of the realm of God; and the hierarchical Church has evangelization as its principal mission [this passage as published]. Except that, as is stated in Vatican II, the laity must concern itself with exercising temporal functions and with ordaining them according to Christ; and party politics is one of those temporal functions. It is in a very special way a function of the laity, and the latter is also a part of the Church.

If you are referring to the hierarchical Church, I believe, continue to believe and have said it a thousand times, that it should take no part in

party politics. And I have always drawn a distinction between the meaning of the term "politics" when taken in its broad sense and its meaning when taken in its narrow sense. In its broad sense, "politics" is the seeking of a common well-being and in this sense we are all seeking it. But as for politics taken in its narrow sense, that is, militating in a party to take power from the standpoint of government, it is my view that the hierarchical Church should not militate.

Vatican II is clear in this respect when it says that the hierarchical Church must illuminate the tasks of the laity.

[Question] Does this "illumination" include detailed guidelines that you would try to impart to the people?

[Answer] We believe that the layman is a mature person able to make well-thought-out decisions. He is not a child, and it is not up to the Church to tell him what vegetable to eat for breakfast, what meat he should be eating at noon, and what he should be doing in the evening. Our mission, in my view, is orientation in the light of the Gospel.

[Question] Monsignor Obando, it has frequently been said that the Nicaraguan Church has in recent years become an opposition political party by way of Masses celebrated every Sunday. What is your view of this?

[Answer] Well, that could be with reference to some individuals who are engaging in party politics in favor of the Sandinist Front, like the priests who hold political meetings in the churches.

[Question] And what do you say of the attitude of the hierarchy, of the bishops?

[Answer] Those priests are also part of the hierarchy. If you mean specifically the bishops, I know of no bishop who holds political meetings in the churches. Obviously, there are media which maliciously distort the truth. There were media that said the sermon we gave last Sunday was an attempt by us to prevent the inoculation of the people. These are the misrepresentations in which certain of the media are engaging but which have nothing to do with reality. Not a single one of our sermons has been a political meeting!! Of course, we talk of salvation, of the person as a whole; we have to exercise our prophetic function, announce the good tiding and, clearly, there are times when a point may be touched on involving an injustice, but let us not call this a political meeting.

[Question] How do you view the participation by political elements opposed to the Revolution in peregrinations and actions of that kind?

[Answer] A religious manifestation is open to attendance by all who may be Christians, Catholics or who may belong to different political parties. We cannot say: "Mass can be attended only by the Catholics of the FSLN [Sandin-

ist National Liberation Front] or only by the Catholics of the Conservative Party or of the Social Christian Party." Masses can be attended by Christians who belong to any political party.

[Question] Including the U. S. ambassador in Managua?

[Answer] Of course he can. If he is a Catholic he can participate... Why not?

[Question] Monsignor, as to the situation regarding RADIO CATOLICA, wherein there was a question as to whether the latter belonged to the Episcopal Conference or to the Managua Diocese, how was this problem resolved?

[Answer] We have said nothing, since no... in any case, this would be an Episcopal Conference matter, but there is no problem within the Conference.

[Question] And how was the matter finally resolved?

[Answer] All I can say is there is no problem whatever! And I have no idea why BARRICADA should be concerned with these things.

[Question] What do you think of Monsignor Pablo A. Vega performance as head of the Conference?

[Answer] I think that as the head we bishops have elected, he will always have to work for the good of the Episcopal Conference, the good of the Church, and accomplish his mission to the best of his ability.

[Question] Monsignor Vega and other bishops recently expressed themselves as favoring a dialogue between the Government and the counterrevolutionaries to supposedly thus bring peace to Central America. Do you share this view?

[Answer] It is my view that Nicaragua's problems should not be resolved in the manner of the ancient tribes, when two leaders came forth with their supportive followers. Those leaders, to gain the upper hand and rise to power, fought each other with clubs, with stones, with knives, with hatchets. I believe problems must be resolved by political means and through a unification of the country; not by means of clubs and in tribal fashion. I believe that, instead of cutting off heads and continuing to cut off lives, it is better to seek a solution by peaceful or political means. But for this, as I have said, a suitable environment must be created within Nicaragua itself; solutions must be sought not only abroad but within the country.

[Question] Does this solution you are advocating include a dialogue with the Somozists and counterrevolutionaries?

[Answer] I believe that the same ideas that are being applied in El Salvador should be applied here as well, in the sense of a dialogue with all those concerned.

[Question] Monsignor, about a year ago, you stated that you saw no evidence that the United States was invading Nicaragua. Do you still maintain that position, after so many crimes and so much destruction committed against our country?

[Answer] The fact is that you are making affirmations... What I said is one thing and what the newspapers may have said is another. What certain of the media say does not always make truth.

[Question] Then you acknowledge the aggression Nicaragua is suffering at the hands of the United States?

[Answer] I believe Nicaragua is suffering an ideological aggression at the hands of Russian and Cuban imperialism, and also other imperialisms. I believe Nicaragua must be the master of its own destiny, and I would appreciate it if you would publish this statement in its entirety, without mutilating it, as otherwise, we would be deeply disappointed. There are exotic ideologies and there are other people here; thus, both imperialisms are at work here, the Russian as well as the American.

[Question] How, in your view, must this situation you have outlined be resolved?

[Answer] It is those who are in charge of the country's destiny who must seek a formula. It is not I who am running the country, but I believe the dialogue must be undertaken on a national scale and involve all persons concerned in this problem area. I know that things are not as simple as they may sound, but I do not believe a problem can be resolved by wielding clubs, stones or hatchets, in the manner of the ancient tribes. And that is now the last question.

[Question] Just one more view, Monsignor: Who is using the club? Nicaragua or the United States?

[Answer] I think the club can be used in various manners: By giving money or arms, and also by introducing exotic ideologies into the country. And one cannot isolate things; they must be addressed in their entirety.

And I ask that you publish my words in their entirety. Otherwise, you will compel me to immediately call Germany and England and say "They have distorted my words!"

[Question] You would do that, Monsignor?

[Answer] Of course I would! And I would no longer give interviews to certain media. You must tell the truth, because I have been misrepresented by many reporters.

INIES DIRECTOR CALLS KISSINGER REPORT 'NIHILISTIC'

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 10.

[Text] Xavier Gorostiaga, one of the continent's most enlightened social scientists and currently the director of the INIES [Nicaraguan Institute for Economic and Social Studies], a branch of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, stated last night that what Nicaragua must do during these coming months in 1984 is "mount a Resistive Economic Plan."

Gorostiaga spoke before a sizable group of technicians and heads of state-owned enterprises, in the Martires y Heroes de Veracruz [Martyrs and Heroes of Veracruz] auditorium of the INAP [Nicaraguan Public Administration Institute], on the meaning, from the Central American viewpoint, of the Kissinger Report and of others that have surfaced in the United States agreeing with it or opposing it.

He pointed out that, even though the Kissinger Commission Report has not attained a consensus in the United States, either in Congress or in public opinion, it is the one to which the Reagan Administration has accorded its definitive acceptance and backing, "as the latter's "last remaining ideological and political cartridge" in its effort to cope with the Central American crisis.

Gorostiaga said that other plans or viewpoints on Central America opposing the Kissinger plan appear to be more realistic but that--nevertheless--"they are too slow-moving," even though they have definitely made an impact, especially as regards affirming that the "state terrorism being engaged in by the Reagan Administration could unleash a "Terrorism of Defense."

"Kissinger," the speaker added, "is truly a magician at handling the press," spectacular in his assessments, even when he denies all U. S. responsibility for the Central American crisis, citing Spain with its legacy, Mexico "with its revolution," the natives of the region themselves, and the region's oligarchies, as the ones truly responsible for what is occurring here.

"Kissinger is the man who creates the geopolitical contexts in which problems are analyzed," the speaker said, adding that, "like the great strategist

he is," he has succeeded in gaining bipartisan backing of his report, avoiding any relationship or parallelism between it and what was done in postwar Europe and ignoring what occurred more recently in Vietnam.

He added that the Kissinger Commission Report seeks to influence the Western Europe of today, in which he perceives a danger of its becoming "pacifistic or neutralistic" toward events in Central America, "where he denies that there are any indigenous revolutions" and centers his attack on what he calls the "Evil Empire," presumably meaning the Soviet Union.

He said that Kissinger views "anti-imperialism in the region as a complex of the Central Americans" and that Kissinger does not believe in the multilateral organizations (neither in the UN nor in the OAS), arguing that "multilateralism is also affecting the security of the United States" and defending the concept of bipolarization as the frame of reference for the East-West problem.

Gorostiaga--who is a member of another group which, in the United States, is drawing up another report on the region--said that Kissinger's concept is beginning to be referred to in the United States as "Keynesian militarism," because it seeks to manage the economy by way of demand.

In the view of the head of INIES, the Kissinger Commission Report "is a Nihilistic one, in that it is predicated on the belief that security and power are the sole values to be considered." It would seem that his German descent brings out in him "something of Nietzsche," said Gorostiaga, adding that this also makes him highly dangerous.

He said that many of Kissinger recommendations for the region are similar to, "and some appear to be copied from," the plans postulated by the Alliance for Progress imposed by Kennedy in his time, after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, and that everything about them points to a revival of the Central American Common Market, "but under the direction of the United States, since Kissinger maintains that the Central Americans are incapable of resolving anything whatever."

The head of the INIES also discussed the other draft plans for the Central American region that exist in the United States, stating that one of them, in which Jesse Jackson--the Black candidate for nomination by the Democratic Party as its candidate for the U. S. presidency--is involved, "is the most acceptable."

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PAPER NOTES GOVERNMENT OPTIMISM ON EXPORTS

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 2

[ANN Special: "Optimism About Exports Due to Market Diversification"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government views exports during the first quarter of the year optimistically due to the positive results achieved through market diversification. However, it recognized that climate problems and an increase in counterrevolutionary actions have caused reductions compared to previous years.

Nicaraguan exports to different countries totaled \$81 million as of 31 March with a volume of more than 1.6 million quintals. This represents almost 20 percent of the annual total of traditional exportable products.

Although the total exports declined compared to the first half of 1983 when products worth approximately \$300 million were sold, the government optimism is based on the fact that the crops in the present cycle are late due to climate factors. Also the development of trade is more positive now due to efforts to end dependence on a single market, the United States.

In spite of the U.S. Government reduction of Nicaraguan sugar and meat quotas, Nicaragua sells that country 5 percent of its exportable sugar--some 120,000 quintals--plus meat, instant coffee, tobacco, cigars, metalworking products, handcrafted shoes, furniture and sesame.

Cotton made up the highest percentage of exports from January to March. Due to increased production of more than 22,000 hectares compared to the previous year and due to better prices in new markets, cotton was first among Nicaraguan agricultural exports. About 700,000 quintals of cotton were shipped during those months to markets in Japan, the FRG, France, China, Taiwan, Bulgaria and Italy.

Coffee shipments totaled 220,000 quintals in this same period, mostly to member countries of the International Coffee Organization. In spite of the fact that the U.S. Government has pressured this organization to reduce the coffee quota assigned to Nicaragua--about 850,000 quintals--it will fulfill that quota this year. The rest of its production estimated at slightly more than 1 million sacks will be sold to Algeria and other countries at higher prices than on the international market.

Coffee exports will drop noticeably this year--probably more than 20 percent compared to last year--because of the drought at the beginning of the agricultural period and the constant raids and harassment in northern Nicaragua, the most important coffee area, by counterrevolutionary groups from Honduran territory.

In March there was a delay in exports of coffee and cotton due to the mining of three Nicaraguan ports, also done by counterrevolutionaries with the support of the Central Intelligence Agency. Eight merchant ships did not reach the docks for fear of colliding with mines placed along the coasts. These ships were supposed to transport more than 3,000 tons of those products that month.

The total amount of sugar exported during the first quarter reached 340,000 quintals purchased by Algeria, Mexico and other countries. In 1979, the United States bought 100 percent of the sugar--and coffee--but it started reducing this in 1980. It bought only 6,600 tons last year.

Sugar production this year will total about 1.56 million quintals. These exports in the first three months do not include seafood, beef, sesame, tobacco, molasses or other miscellaneous crops.

The foreign trade official felt that, in spite of the difficulties, the effort to end dependence on a single market, the United States, has been successful.

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SHORTAGE OF TECHNICIANS, PROFESSIONALS AWAITS SOLUTION

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Apr 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] The lack of attention to technical and professional courses under Somo-zism as well as the current flight of skilled manpower are two major reasons the incessant demand for skilled personnel for the production sector has not received an immediate and effective solution, according to Mariano Vargas, director of planning of the CNES [National Council of Higher Education].

This demand can be demonstrated by the fact that the classified ads in BARRICADA had more than 57 state enterprises asking for engineers, electricians, etc., in only 10 days. Vargas revealed that, since the victory, university and technical school enrollments in those priority careers most in demand have tripled and even increased 10 times. The most in demand is engineering. Very few professionals graduated from the university in the past.

He explained: "With these people being trained in Nicaragua and some 1,660 Nicaraguans who will be trained abroad and return in 1986, we will give a rational solution to this problem." He challenged MIPLAN [Ministry of Planning], CNES, MED [Ministry of Education] and MITRAB [Ministry of Labor] to make a combined effort in a study on the need for technicians and professionals in the medium and long term as well as an updated and complete inventory of those already existing.

He stated that the solution to the shortage of skilled workers and technicians will lie in organized planning for the medium term.

Mariano Vargas, director of planning of the CNES, stated: "There is no updated and complete inventory of technicians and professionals in the country." He was discussing the great demand for these people in the national production sector.

Vargas appealed to MIPLAN, MITRAB, MED and CNES to work together to update this necessary inventory and to do an in-depth study of the existing demand as well as the medium and long-term demand "in order to adjust the volume of enrollments needed to satisfy the demand more scientifically and realistically."

The skilled manpower most in demand is engineers including electrical, mechanical, chemical, industrial and project engineers. These are followed by chemists, mathematicians, physicists and statisticians, respectively.

Medium-Term Solution

He detailed the solutions for training these cadres despite the lack of an inventory and study on demand. Earlier he noted that another problem is the flight of technicians and professionals. There must be an objective solution to end this.

He revealed: "We will meet this demand little by little. We believe we can rationally satisfy the accumulated shortage of skilled manpower in the medium term."

He announced that the Nicaraguans who went abroad after the victory to be trained technically and professionally will be back in the country working by 1986. He also referred to the increased enrollment in priority careers.

He noted: "There were only 186 agronomy students in the past in this eminently agricultural country because Somozism was only interested in producing the technicians it needed to work its land for profit." He added that this neglect of agronomy and other technical careers affects the present shortage.

Now there are 1,400 students enrolled in agronomy and another 5,000 in zootechnics, agricultural engineering and agricultural-livestock administration in order to guarantee the production levels and technical assistance the country needs.

Enrollment has tripled in the health sector with 4,116 students now studying nursing, laboratory technology, institutional nutrition, medicine and odontology. Enrollment in university engineering and technical engineering courses doubled to 5,792.

Enrollment in educational sciences doubled to 6,309 students. Vargas stated that this indicates that "we are in the process of training those technical and professional cadres that are in demand today. However, it is necessary to make an inventory and study of the demand to provide a better solution."

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INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS RAISED

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] New interest rates for savings accounts and time deposits have been set by the National Financial System (SFN) and will go into effect as of April of this year.

Enterprises, labor unions, cooperatives, CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees] and juristic persons will not earn interest on passbook savings accounts, but only on time deposits or savings certificates.

Rene Jaime, manager of the Bello Horizonte Realty Bank, this morning explained to one of our reporters the new interest rates on passbook savings accounts and savings certificates.

Passbook savings accounts will earn 10 percent annual interest in lieu of the former 8 percent; time deposits due in 3 to 6 months will earn 11 percent annually; and time deposits due in 7 months to 1 year will earn 12 percent annually when the interest is paid at maturity. If payment of interest is made after 6 months, the rate will be 11.66 percent.

The foregoing interest rates apply only to natural persons. The rates of interest for natural persons who receive payment of interest on a monthly basis is as follows:

Deposits from 13 months to 2 years, 12.28 percent annually; from 25 months to 3 years, 14.06 percent; from 37 months to 4 years, 14.93 percent; from 49 months to 5 years, 15.8 percent; and from 61 months onward, 17.52 percent.

For persons who receive payment of their interest on a quarterly basis, the rates of interest will be as follows:

Time deposits from 13 months to 2 years, 12.41 percent; from 25 months to 3 years, 14.22 percent; from 37 months to 4 years, 15.12 percent; from 49 months to 5 years, 16.01 percent; and from 61 months onward, 17.78 percent.

When the payment of interest is made semiannually, the rates of interest are the following:

From 7 months to 1 year, 11.66 percent; from 13 months to 2 years, 12.6 percent; from 25 months to 3 years, 14.48 percent; from 37 months to 4 years, 15.41 percent; from 49 months to 5 years, 16.33 percent; and from 61 months onward, 18.17 percent.

Time savings certificates from 3 to 6 months, whose interest is paid at maturity, [will earn] 11 percent annually; from 7 months to 1 year, 12 percent; from 13 months to 2 years, 13 percent; from 25 months to 3 years, 15 percent; from 37 months to 4 years, 16 percent; from 49 months to 5 years, 17 percent; and from 61 months onward, 19 percent.

Rates of interest on savings certificates of juristic persons were not increased, according to what Mr Jaime of the Bello Horizonte Realty Bank explained to us.

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DRAFTERS' ROLE IN UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE BATTALIONS DEFENDED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] Patriotic Military Service [SMP], born of the revolutionary decision to order the people's participation in defense, is now emerging as a strategic element in this war for the sovereignty and total independence of Nicaragua.

"And the national organization which the SMP will implement sums up the effort of the entire revolutionary state and the Sandinista Front to guarantee this country's defense at the lowest possible cost," said Capt Federico Cerda, chief of the Directorate of Mobilization and Organization of the EPS [Sandinista People's Army], as he evaluated the progress made by the people's young combatants for BARRICADA.

He pointed out that, just as it represents the qualitative level of the organized defense achieved by the revolution since 1983, military service institutionalizes this defense and emphasizes to the young men the need for decisively and directly taking up the tasks which will make it possible to protect the achievements of our process.

SMP: Permanent and Specialized Soldiers

The strategic character of the SMP is likewise based on the fact that its units, in addition to volunteer officers and enlisted men, are made up of permanent troops of the Sandinista People's Army, which--as is the case with every modern army--are trained in various military defense specialties.

Thus, combat training in infantry, artillery, antiaircraft artillery, tanks or the air force is being received by young soldiers on the basis of an analysis of the duties of each of these specialties and troop training time, according to Captain Cerda.

He added that because of the different kinds of fighting undertaken by our troops in the face of aggression not all SMP recruits are now participating directly in combat. "Approximately 60 percent are infantry units and 40 percent are troops belonging to the above-mentioned units," he said.

Along with the three permanent EPS categories, there are reserve personnel who are also organized on the basis of noncommissioned officers, privates and a smaller number of permanent officers responsible for mobilizing the troops. A third group is made up of the Sandinista People's Militias.

They Are the Finest and Best Trained

Captain Cerda said that as a permanent force the young men of the SMP are members of the finest and best trained combat units our army has had: the Unconventional Warfare Battalions (BLI). "These are the men who have been given the most training in our country," he added.

"Our people can be sure that there have been no better troops than these to face up to unconventional warfare," the Captain said, adding that this is the reason why the external and internal counterrevolution is trying to discredit the SMP by attempting to infuse the people with doubts and fears. "They know as well as we that these troops are the best trained," he emphasized.

On the subject of the training of these unconventional units, the military commander said that the BLI embody "all our combat experience" and their members--the young men of the SMP--are led by combat veterans of the Sandinista guerrilla force and the fight against the Somozist bands almost since the victory of the revolution.

Their Commanders: Combat Veterans of Great Worth

"The BLI commanders are experienced, combatants of great moral worth, much authority and courage who are shaping units which are demonstrating their efficiency in combat," said Cerda, emphasizing that in recent battles in the mountains they played a major role, along with reserve units, particularly in the northern region.

"Therefore," he emphasized, "our people should know that at every moment the Sandinista People's Army has these men as members of its best combat units, which constitute one of the basic elements that will guarantee victory over the armed aggression being endured by our country."

Captain Cerda said that this confidence in our soldiers should be prevalent among the mothers of the SMP combatants, as he reported on the mechanisms to be utilized to assure better communication with their sons.

He acknowledged that the concern manifested a few days ago by the families of the young recruits was valid in that the military authorities initially had failed to respond adequately to the concerns caused by lack of information about the location of the young men, who had to be distributed quickly to the units to join directly in the fighting.

Better Communication With Families and Possible Passes

"This information--which was the only thing the mothers were seeking--was given to them in the more than 40 meetings held last week in Managua," said Cerda, who added that additional details will be released shortly to assure effective communication with the families.

"Parents will be informed of the military unit to which each of their sons has been assigned, through the regional military delegations; and later they will be told via the media how to write to the young men," he announced.

Asked about the possibility that temporary passes would be issued--so that they will be able to visit their families--Captain Cerdá said that passes will be granted as soon as the military situation improves.

"As soon as this situation is normalized, they will be given passes. In this way we are guaranteeing that the combat readiness of our young men will not be impaired," he emphasized.

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BRIEFS

RECENT EXPORTS--The Foreign Trade Ministry reported that 116,505 quintals of sugar had been exported to the international market up to 3 March of this year, producing \$2,067,965 in foreign exchange. The U. S. market, which purchased that amount of Nicaraguan sugar, is not the best, however, inasmuch as in accordance with a resolution of the U. S. Government, Nicaragua had its quota reduced to a minimum as part of the policy of economic pressure aimed at the Sandinist government. On the other hand, the ministry reported that it exported to the international market 51,783 metric tons of molasses worth \$1,613,865, and the main buyer was Bulgaria. The Public Relations Department of the ministry also disclosed that other items, such as meat, provided the country \$21,450,569, which represent more than 1.3 million pounds of meat. The countries that bought the Nicaraguan beef were Sweden, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United States. As to the export of nontraditional products, sales abroad amounted to \$8,868,467, and the buyers were Central America, United States, Mexico, France, Canada, Great Britain and others. Products under the nontraditional headings were, among others, peanuts, tobacco, metalwork, formol, apparel, medical furniture and cigars. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 84 p 7] 8414

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BRIEFS

DANISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--On Wednesday 21 March Lars Peter Blinkenberg, the Kingdom of Denmark's first ambassador to our country, presented his credentials to President Fred Ramdat Misier; Minister of Foreign Affairs Wim Udenhout attended the ceremony. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 22 Mar 84 p 8] 10139

AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--On 21 March credentials were also presented by Dr Alfred Missing, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Austria to Suriname. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 22 Mar 84 p 8] 10139

BELGIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--On Thursday 22 March Dr Rene van Hauwermeiren, non-resident ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, presented his credentials to our president; Minister of Foreign Affairs Wim Udenhout attended the ceremony. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 23 Mar 84 pp 1, 16] 10139

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--On Thursday 22 March Dr Wahib Fahmy el Miniawy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to our country, presented his credentials in the presidential palace; Minister of Foreign Affairs Wim Udenhout attended the ceremony. The Egyptian representative is based in Caracas. [Excerpt] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 23 Mar 84 pp 1, 12] 10139

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SEREGNI ADVOCATES DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT IN L.A.

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 13, 30 Mar 84 pp 70-71

[Article by Victor Ego Ducrot, special PL correspondent: "Interview with Liber Seregni"]

[Text] The leader of the Uruguayan left, Liber Seregni, stated: "The hardest struggle against imperialism is developing in the Central American area."

He added: "All the peoples of our continent experience U.S. intervention which tries to limit the democracy and development of these nations."

The top leader of the Broad Front coalition, recently released, added that we have no doubt about ultimate victory in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala in spite of the strength and power of the reactionaries.

Seregni revealed that the Sandinist revolution reminds him of a happy memory. "When I was a child, I attended an act of homage to the struggles of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino. That was my first participation in politics."

In relation to the Central American situation, General Seregni noted: "We must not be neutral toward intervention by a foreign power on our continent. We are Latin Americans and show solidarity with the struggle of our brothers."

Naturally, the topic of the Southern Cone was also covered in his statements. The leftist soldier revealed: "A process of democratization that I consider irreversible has begun in the region."

He added: "Argentina already recovered its institutions. Brazil is traveling a progressive road. Our country marches along a difficult path, but surely it will succeed."

Seregni noted that Paraguay and Chile which are still going through an unfortunate situation will also recover the democracy that is so necessary for our peoples and thus find the way to development and integration.

The leader of the Uruguayan left summed up his international philosophy, stating: "We Latin Americans must create an internationale of democracy to confront the international of swords."

He stated that a meeting of Latin American democratic parties, planned for the coming weeks in Asuncion, Paraguay, would promote the understanding of this international for pacification and integration.

Referring again to the Central American crisis, Liber Seregni emphasized that Nicaragua will be able to win with the solidarity of the democratic world, especially that of our countries. He noted: "I don't want to miss the opportunity to recall the joy that the greetings from my Sandinist brothers gave me."

Cuba was not omitted in Seregni's statements. He said: "I received countless messages of congratulations from Cuban leaders which fills me with pride and emotion."

Asked about his reasons for staying in Uruguay after the 1973 coup d'etat when he had the opportunity to go into exile, Seregni pointed out that his political imprisonment was a necessary result of his position as leader. He stated: "I wanted to share all the risks that the soldiers of the Broad Front experienced then."

Referring to the present situation in his country, the so-called "general of the people" revealed that Uruguay needs the help of all the political and social sectors to end the current critical situation.

He added: "The present time demands a supreme effort toward pacification. Therefore, it is necessary to regain and affirm democracy. We must achieve a national agreement that supports the new constitutional regime which will surely come about after the elections next November."

He continued: "In order to make that institutionalization of the Uruguayans effective, we must modernize and restructure the economy so that the republic is no longer merely an international financial market."

He also indicated that this plan will be viable only to the degree that the new democracy opens channels for broad participation by the people, especially our long-suffering working masses.

Referring to the Uruguay he found at the end of his long imprisonment, Seregni revealed that there are two requirements for the great task of pacification. He said: "They are declaration of a general, unlimited amnesty and the united conflux of all the political currents of the country."

He stated: "The amnesty must be granted to all political prisoners without exception, not just the tortured, because we Uruguayans suffered many traumas and wounds that must still heal."

He added: "Political agreement is indispensable because there is not a single party or a single man who alone can solve the serious problems of the Uruguayan people."

He concluded: "History shows that the will of the Latin Americans, inherited from our heroes of independence, will really take shape when a more just and understanding order is created on the continent."